

Jordan Times

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Evans: Denktash impeding settlement

NICOSIA (AP) — Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans blamed Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash Saturday for the lack of progress in efforts to reunite war-torn Cyprus. Australia supports the set of ideas presented by U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali as a basis for solving the conflict, Mr. Evans told the official Cyprus News Agency in an interview. Mr. Evans arrived Friday on a two-day visit to inspect a 20-member Australian police contingent attached to the United Nations peace force in Cyprus. He also was meeting with Cyprus officials. "We are very disappointed that negotiations of the last months have not been productive," Mr. Evans said referring to the inconclusive end of U.N.-sponsored talks in New York in November between Mr. Denktash and Cyprus President George Vassiliou. "We are particularly disappointed with Mr. Denktash who seemed unwilling to accept the set of ideas as a basis for serious negotiations," he said. While Mr. Vassiliou has accepted the ideas incorporated in last November's Security Council Resolution 789, both Mr. Denktash and the Turkish government rejected them. Mr. Evans said that he emerged from talks with Turkish officials in Ankara last year convinced that "they were genuinely trying to achieve a solution to the problem."

Craxi proclaims his innocence

ROME (IR) — Former Prime Minister Bettino Craxi, proclaiming his innocence of all corruption charges, said Saturday he was the victim of the worst political persecution in Italy's post-war history. But he kept up the political suspense as to whether or not he would step down as Socialist leader despite the huge pressure on him to resign from both inside and outside his party. "It is difficult to find precedents in the history of our republic — and even beyond — for the campaign of personal and political aggression against me," Mr. Craxi said. The embattled Socialist leader called a news conference to answer a 12-page case against him by Milan magistrates who want to try him for corruption. When he was asked immediately after reading a long personal defence. When he was asked the one question that has kept his own party and Italy's political establishment guessing for a month — whether or not he would give up the Socialist leadership — Mr. Craxi simply refused to answer. Milan magistrates last week formally asked parliament to lift Mr. Craxi's immunity from prosecution. He has been told he faces possible charges of corruption, receiving stolen goods and breaking the law on political party funding.

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Musa due in Israel

CAIRO (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak has said he is sending Foreign Minister Amr Musa to Israel Sunday to discuss the problem of Palestinian evictees, the state-run Middle East News Agency reported. It said Mr. Mubarak made the disclosure to a group of French and Arab journalists in an interview conducted in Cairo Saturday. The agency gave no further details but a senior government official said earlier Saturday that the visit will last for one day. A Foreign Minister statement issued later said Mr. Musa will pay a short working visit to Israel for talks with Israeli leaders on the Middle East peace process and the evictees issue.

Honecker leaves Santiago hospital

SANTIAGO (AP) — Erich Honecker left a Santiago clinic in a wheelchair late Friday although doctors said the condition of the former East German ruler "is quite more complicated" than originally thought. Doctor Sergio Vaisman, deputy director of Las Condes Clinic, said the decision to allow the 80-year-old unrepentant communist to leave was taken at the request of his family. Mr. Honecker, in the same blue suit and gray hat he wore when he arrived here Thursday from Germany, looked relaxed and smiled broadly as he was wheeled to a waiting automobile surrounded by relatives and security guards.

UNHCR inspects Saudi camps

RIYADH (AP) — Sadako Oga, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), arrived Saturday to inspect camps housing more than 30,000 Iraqis who fled their country during or after the Gulf war. During her stay, she will visit the sprawling camps at Rafha and Ar-Raiy, close to the Saudi-Iraqi border, and discuss their situation with Saudi officials, U.N. officials said. The refugees are mainly Shiite Muslims from southern Iraq who sought safety across the border after Iraqi soldiers crushed a Shiite rebellion in the wake of the Gulf war in 1991. The refugees also include a number of Iraqi soldiers who deserted or surrendered to the coalition forces during the war and later refused to return to their country. About 15,000 of the refugees are trying to get clearance to emigrate to other countries.

Rocket attack on Kabul injures one

ISLAMABAD (R) — More than 20 rockets slammed into the Afghan capital Friday injuring at least one person, state-run Kabul Radio said. The rockets were fired from positions of fundamentalist guerrilla leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Islami party to the south of Kabul, the radio said. The missiles, fired during Friday prayers, caused extensive damage to government buildings and residential areas, it said. Mr. Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Islami has been firing rockets into Kabul for several days to try to force President Burhanuddin Rabbani to resign.

German found dead in Algeria

ALGIERS (IR) — The body of Benedict Scheidel, 22, a German tourist missing in Algeria for six days, was found Saturday in several metres of water in the foothills of mountains where he had been walking. A German embassy source said paramilitary gendarmes who had identified the body were trying to recover it from a difficult place. "It seems he fell several metres down an escarpment and into the water but we don't know yet whether he died from drowning or what," he said.

Iraq is ready for U.N. planes if they fly in from Jordan

Aziz offers fresh compromise, says Iraq does not reject U.N. resolutions but 'no-fly' zones, accuses Bush of 'personal vendetta'

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQ OFFERED a fresh compromise on U.N. flights Saturday, saying it could guarantee the safety of the planes if they travelled from Jordan — avoiding 'no-fly' zones in the south and north.

But it restated determination to fight the 'no-fly' zones imposed by Washington and its Western Gulf war allies and offered nothing concrete on the withdrawal of Iraqi police posts on the Kuwaiti side of the demilitarised zone.

"Iraq hereby agrees... to ensure the safety of the aircraft if they enter Iraqi airspace from the west using the direct flight route between Amman... and Habaniya airfield (west of Baghdad)," Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz told a news conference.

Mr. Aziz accused U.S. President George Bush of having a

"personal vendetta" against Iraq and deliberately confusing the allied-imposed 'no-fly' zones with Iraq's compliance with U.N. Security Council resolutions in order to create a confrontation.

He said Iraq would continue to resist U.S., British and French "aggression" in the zones, but said that issue must be separated from those involving the U.N. resolutions on weapons inspections, U.N. flights and other issues.

Mr. Aziz denied that Iraq continues to have a claim against Kuwait, which it invaded and annexed in 1990 leading to the Gulf war two years ago.

Mr. Aziz said some Iraqi journalists have made threats that Baghdad would someday reclaim Kuwait on grounds that it historically was part of Iraq.

"As a matter of fact, now, it is not," he said in a Baghdad news conference.

Mr. Aziz, who was foreign minister during the Gulf crisis, indicated that Baghdad hopes for better relations with Washington after Bill Clinton becomes president on Wednesday.

Mr. Aziz avoided answering a question about the border posts, saying that would be dealt with by Iraqi and U.N. officials.

A U.N. spokesman said Iraq, which rejects a newly-drawn border with Kuwait, was supposed to remove the posts by midnight Friday from what the U.N. now considers as Kuwaiti territory.

The violation would be reported to the U.N. Security Council, said the spokesman, Abdul Latif Kabbaj, speaking to reporters in the 15-kilometre demilitarised zone between the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission (UNIKOM) is stationed.

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Palestinian evictees say Red Cross aid could prolong exile

MARJ AL ZOHOOR, Lebanon (Agencies) — Palestinians expelled by Israel to an icy Lebanese tent camp said Saturday they welcome Red Cross aid but believe assistance may reduce pressure on the Jewish state to take them back.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said it was awaiting Lebanese government approval to take medicine by helicopter to the 413 evictees and a flight was not expected before Monday.

"We welcome the ICRC visit and know that the Red Cross has relentlessly tried to convince Israel to supply us," said Dr. Aziz Dwaik, a spokesman for the evictees.

"We desperately need heating fuel, food and medicine... but we demand the ICRC do more than supply us our basic needs, that it

pressure Israel to implement U.N. Security Council Resolution 799," he said.

The resolution, passed a day after the 413 Palestinians were forced into exile, demands Israel immediately take them back.

Dr. Abdul Aziz Al Rami, an evictee leader, said the Red Cross operation gave Israel time to manoeuvre and avoid the central issue of abiding by the U.N. demand that they return.

"There is no need for such visits in light of Resolution 799 which is very clear and only needs to be implemented," he said.

Israel agreed Friday that the ICRC in the second such visit to the camp could evacuate nine Palestinians banished by "mistake" and any sick evictees whose lives were in danger.

Bernard Pfefferle, the chief ICRC delegate in Lebanon, said

Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri posed some questions about the helicopter operation at a meeting late Friday.

Mr. Hariri sought assurances from the Red Cross Saturday that the proposed mercy mission would not defy his government's refusal to take any responsibility for the expelled Palestinians.

A statement distributed by his press office said Mr. Hariri found the latest ICRC proposal which has been approved by Israel "partially interesting."

But it added, Mr. Hariri has asked Mr. Pfefferle to provide "clarifications about some aspects" of the operation.

It was not clear how soon the mission could be arranged, but Israel radio said it could be delayed until Monday.

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First leftist party legalised

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Democratic Party for Progress in Jordan (DPPJ) became the country's first leftist party to gain legal acceptance Saturday when Minister of Interior Jawdat Shoubi issued a licence to the group.

The legalisation of the DPPJ came one month after three other leftist parties were denied legal status by the government. The secretary general of the party, Ali Amer, told reporters that he believed that recent meetings between senior government officials and leaders of the main left-wing parties had borne fruit and that the legalisation of his party was the first step in a series that would mend fences between the government and Jordanian leftists.

"We believe that the left and the Ministry of Interior can come to an understanding in this age of democracy," Mr. Amer told a press conference at his party's headquarters in Abdali.

The legalisation of the Jordanian Communist Party as well as the Baathist Party and the Jordan People's Democratic Party (JPDP) were a prerequisite for a true democratic system in Jordan, Mr. Amer added.

"We are overjoyed at the news that we received from Mr. Shoubi today," said Mr. Amer after being informed of the Ministry of Interior decision to grant DPPJ legal status. "We will continue however, to press for legal recognition of the other parties, that were denied this legal status."

Mr. Amer said that the "on-the surface" things that the Ministry of Interior was objecting to vis-a-vis symbols and names used by the leftist parties could be "adjusted."

In what may be a precedent in the compromise between a leftist party and the government, the DPPJ deleted from its manifesto any reference to changing Jordan's political system into a socialist one. Previously the change of Jordan's political system to a socialist one was among the main objectives of the DPPJ.

"Our aim is to create an environment where social justice rules and economic disparities become non-existent," said Mr. Amer. "The reference of the word socialism is not necessary as long as the ideals are embedded in the party's charter."

Left-wing political observers had predicted that as long as a direct reference to socialism remains in the charter of any party the party will face troubles in gaining legal recognition.

Isa Madanat, a member of the Lower House and head of the Jordanian Socialist Democratic Party, said Friday that the minister of interior had personally told him that a deletion of the term "socialist" from his party's name and charter would guarantee the group legal acceptance.

Mr. Madanat, contacted by the Jordan Times, said that such a move on the part of his party was "out of the question."

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King, Qaboos hold talks in Muscat

MUSCAT (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday held a round of talks with Sultan Qaboos Ben Sa'id of Oman shortly after he arrived in Muscat.

The talks dealt with Jordanian-Omani relations and the latest developments in the Arab region, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

Upon his arrival in Muscat, King Hussein was received at the airport by Sultan Qaboos, the sultan's personal representative Prince Tuwaini Ben Shihab, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence and Security Affairs Fahr Ben Taimour, Deputy Prime Minister for Legal Affairs Fahd Ben Mahmoud Al Saeed, Deputy Premier for Financial Affairs Oais Al Zawawi and other senior officials.

King Hussein and Sultan Qaboos met at Al Baraka Palace. The meeting was attended on the Jordanian side



by Royal Court Chief Khaled Al Karaki and Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ad Ben Zeid.

In Amman, King Hussein was seen off by their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah, the Regent, Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament,



Cabinet members and other senior officials.

Government sources quoted by AP said the monarch was paying a three-day "private visit" to Oman.

"The purpose of the trip is non-political," said one of the sources, speaking on condition of anonymity. "But one can't

say that both leaders will not touch on the latest regional developments in their meetings."

That was a clear reference to the allied air strike on Iraq on Wednesday.

The monarch's visit to Oman is the third since the outset of the Gulf crisis.

King Hussein is a close friend of Sultan Qaboos. The two men often exchange telephone calls and letters. The King visited Oman last in January 1992.

Officials quoted by Reuters said the visit was part of continued efforts by Jordan to repair relations with the Gulf states which deteriorated sharply during the Gulf crisis. Jordan has maintained good relations with Oman and Arab diplomats did not rule out the possibility of Sultan Qaboos mediating to improve Jordan's ties with other Gulf states, Reuters said.

7 shot and wounded in Gaza

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israeli soldiers shot and wounded seven Palestinians while dispersing demonstrators in the occupied Gaza Strip Saturday, Palestinian sources said.

In Jabalya, soldiers fired rubber bullets and live ammunition at Palestinian youths who were throwing stones at an army outpost, wounding three of the protesters.

Four Palestinians were wounded in clashes with soldiers in Gaza City and at the Shati refugee camp.

Soldiers beat reporter

Israeli soldiers beat and threatened a reporter and detained a cameraman in the occupied territories, Palestinians said.

The army said it was checking the reports.

In Hebron in the occupied West Bank, three soldiers hit Bassam Shweiki with a club in the leg and hip.

Mr. Shweiki, a pan-time Reuters reporter, was interviewing Palestinians at the produce market in Hebron when the soldiers approached him.

"They snatched my (tape) recorder and broke it. I showed them my press card. They hit me with the club, cursed me and then threatened that if I continue working as a journalist they would come and beat me," Mr. Shweiki said.

In the West Bank town of Jabalya soldiers detained and later released Majdi Jamil Arabid, a Palestinian cameraman working for World Television News (WTN) a WTN producer said.

Mr. Arabid, 26, from Sheikh Redwan in Gaza, was covering clashes between soldiers and Palestinians when he was detained. He was held for an hour at the army outpost in Jabalya and released.

The army confiscated his videotape of the clashes.

On Friday in Jabalya an Israeli officer detained a cameraman working for Reuters television, Marwan Al Ghol, broke his camera and threatened to kill him if he returned to Jabalya.

"He took me to the army camp and took my camera and film. After two hours he drove me out of Jabalya, told me he would kill me if I ever return and threw me out of the jeep," he said, adding the officer broke his camera and took his videotape.

On Tuesday an American photographer of the Paris-based Sygma photo agency, Paul Kern, said a soldier held a loaded gun to his head and threatened to kill him if he did not hand over film he took of Palestinian children in the occupied Gaza Strip.

Relief convoy to Muslims in Bosnia town turned back

PALE, Bosnia (Agencies) — A U.N. relief convoy heading for a Serb-besieged Muslim enclave in eastern Bosnia was forced to turn back after having got within shouting distance of its destination, U.N. officials said.

A spokesman for the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Zagreb, Peter Kessler, denied reports that the convoy had reached Zepa.

"On the contrary, no agreement had been reached with Serbs to let the convoy through and the convoy was forced to return to Borik where it will spend the night," he said.

It remained unclear why the Serbs refused to allow the convoy through when a Serb commander at Borik, 10 kilometres away, said Friday evening he had orders to let it pass.

A barricade of fallen trees forced the eight-truck convoy, escorted by United Nations peace forces and carrying 80 tonnes of food and medicines, to grind to a halt on an icy road within hailing distance of the town.

The Zepa convoy was carrying

80 tonnes of aid for the population of the mountainous Muslim enclave, whose pre-war population of 8,000 has swollen to 20,000 because of a refugee influx.

Reports from the town through ham radio operators say scores of people have died from cold, starvation and disease.

The U.N. convoy was repeatedly delayed after entering Serb-ordered re-routing, then by several controls. At Rogatica, between Sarajevo and Zepa, Serb rebels shook sardine cans, checking for the rattle of bullets.

One of them called the exhaustive search of vehicles and U.N. personnel a "courtesy check."

An umbrella group of Islamic nations urged the United Nations Friday to stand behind its resolutions and defend Muslims in Bosnia.

Turkish Ambassador Mustafa Aksin, speaking on behalf of the Organisation of Islamic Conference, said that U.N. peacekeepers and observers have failed to

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Fateh leaders meet on reform


TUNIS (AP) — Top leaders of Yasser Arafat's mainstream Fateh group have opened meetings in Tunis on questions of reform, inter-Palestinian relations and the Middle East peace process.

Palestinian sources said during their three-day meetings, which began Friday, the leaders are expected to discuss how to ensure the continuation of the authority of the movement considered to be the backbone of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The meeting has been in the works since Mr. Arafat's plane crash in April 1992, which left him injured and stranded without communications in the Libyan desert overnight.

That raised concern in some quarters of the PLO that there was a need for political reform with Fateh, which is increasingly being challenged, especially by

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Sheikh Isa opens consultative council

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — The emir of Bahrain Saturday inaugurated the 30-member Majlis Al Shura, (consultative council), underscoring the advent as a step towards democratisation.

"Majlis Al Shura constitutes an appropriate and fitting formula for this phase that requires national unity and collaboration," Sheikh Isa Ben Salman Al Khalifa told the fully-appointed council in a speech.

"The phase also requires wisdom and thoughtful action, and consolidation of stability on Arab and international levels," he said.

He indicated that the council would be broadened with time, stressing his resolve to expand the scope of democratic consultation in laying down legislations, governing state policy, and streamlining government efforts in economic development and services.

The council, he said, was to generate "luminous ideas and offer proposals and programmes aimed at safeguarding national institutions and accomplishments."

Council President Ibrahim Hamdan paid tribute to the emir for setting up the body, pledging support for the government in a "way that accords priority to the national interests."

Mr. Hamdan conceded that

the beginning may seem slow, but emphasised it as a "solid and prudent start based on sound planning."

About half of the handpicked members were drawn from the preponderant Shiite Muslim sect. Mr. Hamdan himself is Shiite. Sheikh Isa and the rest of the ruling Al Khalifa family are Sunni Muslims.

There is no census based on religious denomination in Bahrain, but the Shiites are believed to make about 60 per cent of the population of nearly half a million.

The council is made up mainly of wealthy merchants, leading businessmen and members of prominent families.

The council is viewed here as a democratic body, patterned after the Arabian style of the early era of Islam.

Sheikh Isa named the 30 members on Dec. 27 to advise him on the country's political and economic affairs and to widen popular representation. A national assembly elected in 1973 was dissolved two years later.

The decree establishing the council said it would be asked to give opinions on draft laws submitted by the cabinet before they are sent to the emir for final approval.



Sheikh Isa Ben Salman

The council would ordinarily meet in two annual sessions — from Oct. 1 to Dec. 31 and March 1 to May 31.

Extraordinary sessions could be called if necessary.

Conservative leaders of the oil-rich Gulf region have preferred the consultation system, dismissing Western-style parliaments as alien to the nature and mechanics of Islamic politics.

King Fahd of Saudi Arabia has promised his people a 60-member royally appointed council but has so far only named the speaker.

Kuwait is the only member state of the Gulf Cooperation Council with a parliament, freely elected along Western lines.

In addition to Bahrain, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, the council comprises Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

Gulf newspapers urge overthrow of Saddam

DUBAI (R) — Gulf newspapers have called on the Iraqi people to overthrow President Saddam Hussein, saying he was to blame for Wednesday's allied air strike against Iraq.

"We call upon the brotherly Iraqi people to overthrow the tyrant and free their will from his regime's oppression... and then they will find all the support they need to help rebuild their country," the Saudi newspaper Al Jazira said.

The Saudi Al Bilad said President Saddam paid "the price of aggression" when U.S. and British warplanes struck at missile defences in southern Iraq Wednesday.

Iraqi salvage crews retrieved Iraqi weapons and material from a disputed area with Kuwait for four days running this week without the U.N. permission.

"He (Saddam) does not seem to care what price his people have to pay for his violation of international law and aggression against Kuwait," Al Bilad said.

It said: "The problems facing the Iraqi people are the result of mistakes committed by Saddam who has become a nightmare for the Iraqi people and an element of disruption in the area."

No official comment has come from the Gulf Arab states on the allied attack which angered much

of the Arab World. But Gulf media have been mostly supportive of the action.

The Abu Dhabi Al Ittihad newspaper said, "It is now clear that Iraq's suffering will only end with the fall of Saddam."

"No Arab wants Arab blood to be shed on Arab soil, but what can we do when Baghdad rulers deliberately commit follies and give empty statements that provoke the world against them," it said.

The Dubai-based Al Bayan asked: "What does the Iraqi regime want? Is what it wants any different from the desires of the enemies of the Iraqi people and the Arab Nation who want Iraq to stay paralysed and unable to do its national role?"

Sri Lanka's stage protest

Sri Lankan police Friday broke up a demonstration by Muslims protesting against U.S.-led air strikes on Iraqi missile positions, witnesses said.

Police outside the U.S. embassy in Colombo grappled with about 50 protesters waving placards demanding an end to American military action in Iraq.

They formed a line before the protesters, who dispersed after about 20 minutes, a Reuters photographer said.

White House releases Iran-Contra documents

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House Friday released excerpts from President George Bush's diaries and other records on the Iran-contra affair. They indicate Mr. Bush in 1986 dismissed early news reports alleging his involvement as "crazy information."

The White House also released the transcript of Mr. Bush's five-hour videotaped deposition to Iran-contra investigators on Jan. 11, 1988, made in his vice-presidential office.

A written transcript of Mr. Bush's tape-recorded diary for Nov. 9, 1986, the week after the scandal came to light, read: "Sunday the papers are all full of Iran. A lot of crazy information... some of it that the arms dealers that were arrested felt I was involved."

"A lot of misinformation," Mr. Bush, then vice-president, wrote, expressing concern also that a frustrated Secretary of State George Shultz might resign. "His people are not dealing from a full deck there in the State Department," Mr. Bush wrote.

The following day he wrote that President Ronald Reagan "is very suspicious of the State Department bureaucracy."

A separate Nov. 9, 1986, entry said, "all in all, a troubling weekend. People running for cover, hating... The right wing, who is normally on Shultz's case, rallying behind him because of the trading arms for hostages policy. At least the policy they see as trading arms for hostages."

The transcripts of Mr. Bush's taped comments were not turned over to Iran-contra prosecutors because of their "overly broad document requests," former Attorney General Griffin Bell said in a 14-page report. The White House announced the hiring of Mr. Bell the week after Mr. Bush's Christmas Eve pardons of Casper Weinberger and five other Iran-contra figures.

Iran-contra prosecutor Lawrence Walsh disclosed bones after the pardons that the White House had not disclosed the existence of Mr. Bush's notes until Dec. 11, 1992. Mr. Walsh said Mr. Bush's notes had been improperly withheld.

"It became necessary for outside counsel to investigate Judge Walsh's allegations," Mr. Bell said in the report released by the White House.

The transcript of Mr. Bush's videotaped testimony showed the then-vice president to be vague about events at the White House surrounding the Iran arms sales.

Earlier Friday, White House Press Secretary Martin Fitzwater said the material "clearly establishes the vice-president had no particular involvement in the Iran-contra situation."

Mr. Bush has maintained that as vice-president, he did not know the 1985-1986 U.S. arms sales were part of a swap of weapons for the release of American hostages held in Lebanon.

Mr. Bush, under oath, answered questions in 1988 in his vice-presidential office from lawyers for independent counsel Walsh and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) officials.

"That is the complete legal testimony that was given to the grand jury about the president's recollections of the Iran-contra affair, his role as vice-president," Mr. Fitzwater said.

"It's very good and interesting, particularly to students of government, the vice-presidency, and how decision-making works in the White House," Mr. Fitzwater said.

The notes requested by Mr. Walsh, the spokesman said, "constituted just his personal reflections on all aspects of government, his job and so forth, most of which had no relationship to Iran-contra. They were just notes on policy issues that came before him."

U.S. troops kill 6 Somalis in Mogadishu

MOGADISHU (AP) — U.S. troops shot and killed six Somalis — at least three of them civilians — after the Americans came under fire, a U.S. military spokesman said Saturday.

A day after the gunbattle, U.S. army soldiers Saturday uncovered what the spokesman called the "mother lode of arms caches" — 30 bunkers west of Mogadishu stuffed with more than 1,000 tonnes of arms and ammunition.

Marine Colonel Fred Peck said the ordnance in the bunkers would fill 150 to 200 five-tonne trucks and included surface-to-air missiles, 230-kilogram bombs, small arms, machine guns and ammunition.

Col. Peck told reporters at least three of six Somalis killed in the battle Friday were innocent civilians caught in the cross-fire. Four of the six wounded also appeared to be civilians.

A six-vehicle army patrol came under fire at about 10 p.m. (1900 GMT) Friday near the village of Buriego northwest of Mogadishu. Col. Peck said 10 to 15 bandits holding up a truck carrying about 15 civilians opened fire on the soldiers. The soldiers returned fire.

"We are not sure but they might have been trying to use civilians as shields," said Col. Peck.

"As far as we can determine the soldiers did what they were trained to do. They were fired on at night and they returned fire," he said.

He said one of the dead and one of the wounded were thought to be bandits, two of the dead were still unidentified and one of the wounded was a woman shot by the bandits before the soldiers arrived.

Col. Peck said Marines shot one Somali man in Mogadishu Saturday after the man aimed a pistol at a Marine. The Marines said the man went down, but that the Marines left the scene and did not know the extent of the Somali's wounds.

Ali Mahdi Mohammad, the self-styled interim president of Somalia during two years of civil war and the warlord who controls northern Mogadishu, returned to the capital and said he was confident all 14 warring factions would honour the ceasefire signed in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

After two weeks of acrimonious talks in the Ethiopian capital, faction leaders agreed to cease fire and to hand over all heavy weapons to U.S.-led coalition forces in Somalia.

The leaders created a committee to deal with questions about who will participate in a national

reconciliation conference in Addis Ababa in March.

General Mohammad Farah Aided, the major warlord controlling southern Mogadishu, said in Addis Ababa autonomous regions should be created before talks begin on an interim central authority. The proposal would legitimise the fiefdoms warring clans have carved out of Somalia.

He told reporters a national reconciliation conference should first discuss ways of creating a police force and restoring essential services.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali hailed the pact between Somali warlords to end fighting and disarm their militias as opening the way to reconstruction of the lawless country.

"The secretary-general welcomes this positive result that should contribute to establishing peace and security, national reconciliation, restoring the Somali state and rebuilding and developing Somalia," a U.N. statement said.

The statement was issued in Paris where Dr. Ghali was attending the signing of a treaty banning chemical weapons.

Dr. Ghali said he congratulated Ethiopian President Meles Zenawi for working with U.N. representatives to help bring about the agreement.

Famine, disease and fighting killed an estimated 350,000 Somalis in the past year, following the ouster of dictator Mohammad Siad Barre. Another two million Somalis are considered at risk.

Col. Peck said Somali civilians led U.S. army police Saturday to the 30 bunkers of arms and ammunition south of the town of Afgoye, west of Mogadishu.

"I don't want to start using clichés but you would have to say this is the mother lode of arms caches," said Col. Peck.

He said soldiers expecting to find five or six bunkers instead uncovered 30 stuffed with all kinds of ordnance. He said the army was beginning the massive task of counting the weapons and ammunition.

"It seems to be an old Somali military cache, but some clan could have been drawing arms and small arms ammunition from it," Col. Peck said.

The military spokesman said two of the five Marines injured in a traffic accident Friday were evacuated to Germany for treatment. Two were in a military hospital in Mogadishu and one was treated and released. He said a navy corpsman injured in the same accident was flown to Mombasa, Kenya.

First leftist party legalised

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Zeid Ben Shaker in the home of Deputy Prime Minister Ali Sheimat Dec. 27 in an initial meeting between the government and leftist leaders in an attempt to mend fences over the government's refusal to legalise the left-wing groups.

Mr. Ali said that follow-up meetings between a special government committee and the leftist leaders helped make Saturday's recognition possible.

Asked if his party was requested to make any changes in its charter, Mr. Ali said: "We were told that our party's symbol resembles that of some other parties and thus we altered it without officially being asked to do so; it was a small gesture on our part. The change was symbolic and we felt that it would not attack the essence of our policies and beliefs."

Mr. Amer as well as several members of his party are former members of the Palestine National Council as well as members of the Damascus-based Democratic Front for

the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP).

While initially an ardent supporter of DFLP leader Nayef Hawatmeh, Mr. Amer's sympathy swayed to the breakaway leadership of Yasser Arafat, who set up a renegade DFLP faction in Tunisia.

Mr. Amer and other members of the DPPI all resigned from the PNC and the DFLP committees before applying for independent party status in Jordan.

In reference to the past links between party cadre and the Palestinian parties in Tunisia and Damascus, Mr. Amer said: "We are and will remain organisationally and financially distinct and independent from any party anywhere. We have and will continue to have contacts with a variety of political parties inside Jordan and all over the Arab World."

The DPPI supports the ongoing Arab-Israeli peace talks in principle and is considering joining the Jordanian Arab Nationalist Democratic Association (JANDA), the largest alliance of left-wing and pan-Arab parties in the Kingdom.

Air raid worries Iraqis, but life continues as normal

By Victoria Graham
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The allied air attack on southern Iraq has raised worries about another war, but not enough to disrupt the Friday "animal market" in downtown Baghdad.

Shoppers crowded around stalls to inspect cackling chickens, ducks and roosters for Friday's holiday dinner, while some examined the aggressive, brightly coloured fighting cocks on sale nearby.

Surprisingly, there has been no panic buying of food and fuel by Iraqis fearing that an escalation of the confrontation would prune their already meager food rations, and leave them without heating in the winter cold.

The state-run radio Friday announced that the Ministry of Oil had no plans to introduce oil rationing, and it urged people not to hoard gasoline and other fuels.

The day after Wednesday's air raid, long queues of 100 or more cars lined up for fuel at the gas stations, and shopkeepers said people were

buying non-perishable foods like pasta and rice in greater quantities at the enormously over-priced black market.

But by Friday, things were normal, as both shoppers and shopkeepers went about their daily business, and demand for gasoline dwindled.

Wednesday's raid involved isolated targets in southern Iraq. News of President George Bush's latest deadline for allowing U.N. flights — midnight Friday — was slow to spread and was unlikely to heighten fears of Baghdad residents.

Worries about another war are restrained among the capital's four million people, who are still picking up the pieces of the 1991 Gulf war and the ensuing United Nations trade sanctions.

For most of Iraq's 18 million people, life has become a constant struggle to keep one step ahead of runaway inflation and cope with daily shortages of food and almost all other commodities.

Even Saddam Hussein wristwatches, normally freely available, are now in short

supply.

On Saadoun Street, rows upon rows of sidewalk sellers peddled everything they could, from old, tattered shoes, to new footwear imported from Taiwan, and cheap Reebok copies.

One man held up a worn leather jacket, and said he was a government worker who had to sell his used clothes to eke out a meagre income to support his pregnant wife and small daughter.

"The situation is very bad," he said.

In public, no Iraqi dares blame the government for the miserable situation. At least in public, Iraqis blame the United States, especially President Bush.

All, a teacher who would not give his last name, said: "We are sick and tired of this situation. The embargo has been hurting us for two and a half years. Why doesn't George Bush leave us alone. This doesn't hurt the government. It hurts the people, and Bush should know that."

It is Mr. Bush whom Iraqi

newspapers Friday depicted as a bloodthirsty warmonger out to destroy Iraq.

The daily Al Iraq newspaper bade good riddance to Mr. Bush in the last days of his outgoing administration, and condemned him to the "cesspool of history."

Mr. Bush, said the Arabic-language newspaper, was a "criminal and obsessive lover of crime and widespread destruction and killing."

All evil leaders, said the paper, shed blood in their dying hours.

Saadoun Hamadi, a former prime minister, said in an interview published in the Al Thawra daily that leaders of the United States, Britain and France, had sold their souls to the devil.

Dr. Hamadi said Wednesday's air strike against Iraqi missiles in the "no-fly" zone in southern Iraq was not over a dispute over U.N. resolutions, but because the allies were so overpowered by feelings of hatred that they spent every minute thinking of ways to "renew their aggression against Iraq."

Outside the Sheikh Abdul Quadir Mosque near Baghdad's rundown downtown area, beggars pleaded with worshippers gathering for the weekly prayers to spare a few dinars. A wrinkled woman with tears in her eyes, pleaded with a reporter for spare change.

Inside, preacher Sheikh Abdul Wahab Al Tu'ma, told his congregation of several thousand gathered for the weekly Friday worship that the air strike was part of a "Western conspiracy" against Iraq.

"This is a battle between Islam and atheism, Iraq faces a Western conspiracy," he said.

Worshippers, seated cross-legged on plush carpets beneath a turquoise-coloured dome, retorted with restrained cries of "God is Great."

Sheikh Tu'ma lashed out at Mr. Bush, saying he would "blacken his name with his criminal actions against the Iraqi people..."

"We must resist," he said. "This is a holy war."

In Somalia, a few thieves are even in jail

MOGADISHU (AP) — In a city ruled by the gun and overrun by cutthroats, pickpockets and thieves, Yassin Ahmad is a small-time crook who figures he was just unlucky.

The 21-year-old two-time loser is one of just a dozen inmates at Mogadishu's central prison, a faded relic of white crumbling walls and turrets built by Italian colonisers on a sandy bluff overlooking the sea.

"It is very strange. We are in prison in a city where there is no law and order. Everyday there are crimes. There are thieves. But the 12 of us are the only... unlucky enough to get caught," said Ahmad, who is doing his second term for theft.

Hours earlier, almost in the shadow of the prison, members of one clan tied the hands of a rival behind his back and shot him once in the head. There were no arrests, no investigation.

On the busy port road, guards atop trucks used lengths of rope to whip looters who jumped on the moving trucks to steal sacks of grain.

"We know there are murderers and big criminals out there. But they have guns and are backed by clans and nobody is going to punish them," said Ibrahim Abdikader, 23, who awaits trial for a theft he admits.

"I feel better in here. If I was in the town, I could get killed. I feel safer here than I do in the city," said Abdikader. Guards, volunteers who work for food, outnumber inmates almost four to one at the prison run by the forces of Mohammed Farah Aided, the major warlord controlling south Mogadishu.

The prison commander, police General Xusen Farah Mahamud said there were only thieves in the prison because inmates convicted of murder had been executed by



Two Marines stand in front of barbed wire near Mogadishu's "green line" (AFP photo)

firing squad. He declined to say how many.

He insists all prisoners had a defence attorney and a trial before one of 14 district judges in Mogadishu.

"You don't want to listen to the prisoners," said Gen.

Just off the prison's hot, dusty central courtyard a guard dressed in a khaki uniform with a bright red sash watched Ahmad stir a goosy batch of rice simmering over an open fire in an iron kettle swarming with flies.

"Rice, it is always the same.

All we ever eat is rice and we only get that once a day," complained Ali Abdi Abdullah, 36, who is near the end of a six-month sentence for theft.

"When I was out, I made a lot of money stealing wood. I ate very well, now all I eat is rice."

The notes requested by Mr. Walsh, the spokesman said, "constituted just his personal reflections on all aspects of government, his job and so forth, most of which had no relationship to Iran-contra. They were just notes on policy issues that came before him."

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 77111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:30	Reves d'enfants
17:40	La Piste de Xaplan
18:00	News French
19:15	Le Journal de l'histoire
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Family Matters
21:10	Documentary
22:00	News in English
22:30	Law and Order
PRAYER TIMES	
06:10	Fajr
06:30	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:45	Asr
16:59	Maghreb
18:20	Taha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifeth Tel. 810740	
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 637785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Sothe Church Tel. 601757	
Terrasanta Church Tel. 62366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 630851	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 713331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 713331	
Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 717151	
Assyrian International Church Tel. 695328	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823624, 654932	
Church of the Nazarene tel. 675691	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
A slight rise in temperatures will take place as some clouds will appear at various altitudes. Winds will be easterly moderate. In Asaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Min./Max. temp. Asaba	
0 / 12	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Mohammad Al Sawwa	730256
Dr. Abdul Hadi Tayem	620115
Dr. Youssef Sammour	615648
Dr. Ghaleb Zaidieh	730111
Firas pharmacy	661912
Fedous pharmacy	770336
Amman pharmacy	637035
Naroukh pharmacy	623672
Al Salan pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Sumelant pharmacy	637660
Najih pharmacy	847623
Fifth circle pharmacy	813141
EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	611111
Civil Defence Immediate	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 611111, 637177
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Jabal Amman Materality	642363
Public Security Department	636140
Hotel Complaints	605800
HOSPITALS	

Citizens asked to help ensure road safety

Consumer group urges improved roads, cheaper spare parts

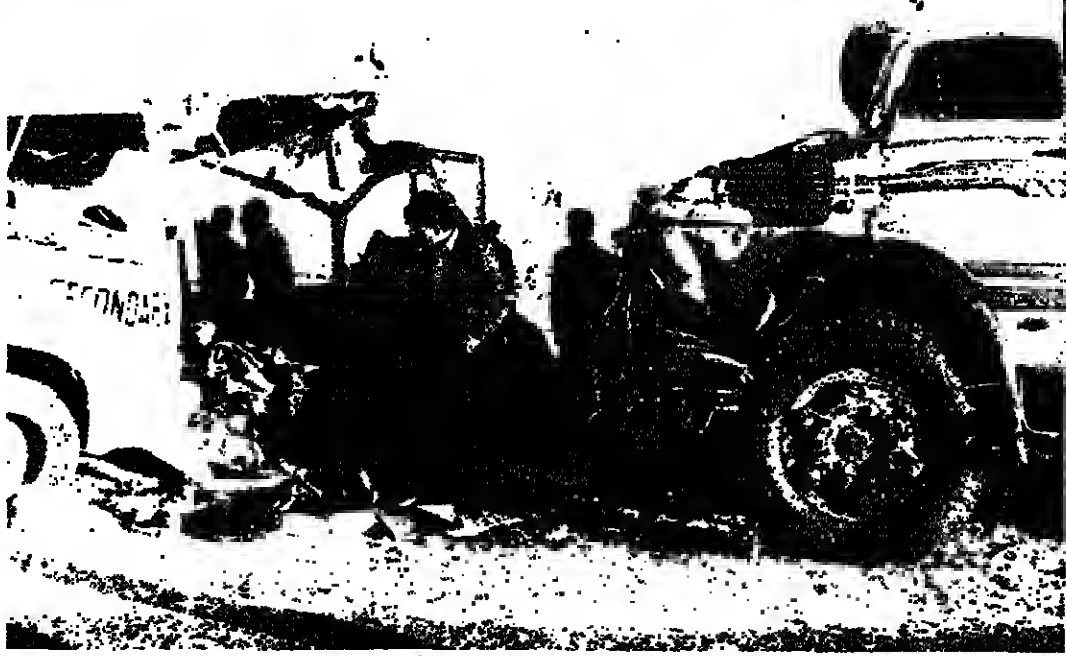
AMMAN (J.T.) — Director of the Traffic Department Brigadier Ahmad Dmour Saturday called for the involvement of citizens and educational institutions in efforts aimed at reducing road accidents in Jordan. That same day an accident involving two trucks on Amman's ring road took the lives of two people.

Addressing the opening session of a week-long training seminar for students at the University of Jordan, Brig. Dmour said his department was attempting to spread public awareness in traffic matters through the help of police departments, educational institutions and students around the country.

The opening of the seminar followed the announcement here Friday of the death of 34 citizens and the injury of 700 others in 1,810 road accidents in the Kingdom in December, 1992, alone.

The Public Security Department (PSD), which released these figures, said that nearly 31 per cent of the casualties were young people aged between 10 and 30.

According to Brig. Dmour, the traffic police and students will discuss the causes of road accidents; spreading information about roads and road conditions.



Thirty-one per cent of road accident casualties are young Jordanians between the ages of 10-30 (Petra photo)

traffic regulations and other related topics, in addition to workshops on organising traffic.

According to traffic department officials, road conditions constitute one of the major causes of accidents in Jordan. They said although most accidents are attributed to human error, pits and holes in the roads, which are more prevalent in winter, cause many of the accidents and cost the country considerable sums of money in spare parts.

Minister of Supply Mohammad

Saqqa announced late last year that as of the beginning of 1993, the price of spare parts will drop as a result of reducing the margin of profit allowed to the merchants from 30 to 25 per cent.

A study conducted by the Jordanian Consumers Protection Society said that road conditions were responsible for the drain on a motorist's monthly salary by 16 per cent. Each car owner pays at least an average JD 40 a month on car repairs for damages caused by road conditions.

The society said that the Ministry of Supply's announcement of a five per cent reduction was insufficient and it also called on the ministry and other concerned authorities to find means of ensuring smooth roads and controlling the sale of, and the sometimes exorbitant prices of, spare parts.

The society urged the Ministry of Industry and Trade to encourage the manufacture of more auto spare parts in the Kingdom in order to cut down on imported spare parts.

Meeting to focus on land use in development

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment said Saturday that it is arranging a seminar to discuss the use of lands in relation to regional development.

Minister of Municipal Affairs Abdul Razzak Tubeishat said that the seminar planned for the end of January, will focus on land use around Mu'ta University near the southern city of Karak. He said the ministry's Regional Planning Department has prepared a specific plan on land use, which will be taken up by the participants. Furthermore, he said, the ministry has prepared a set of working papers dealing with Jordan's experiments in regional planning in general and regional planning in the Karak and Tafleh regions in particular.

A second paper will deal with the use of lands in Mu'ta University area and a third will feature various Jordanian laws governing the use of land, the minister said.

Dr. Tubeishat said the University of Jordan will present a paper on the encroachment of buildings on agricultural land; and the Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre will contribute a paper on technology use in the preparation of land maps.

The Ministry of Agriculture will submit a paper dealing with the classification of soil; and in a separate paper, the Natural Resources Authority will outline its geological studies on land, the minister added.

He said representatives of the Ministries of Energy and Mineral Resources, Agriculture, Planning, Tourism, Public Works and Housing, Water and Irrigation as well as the Jordan Engineers Association, and Jordanian universities will take part in the meeting.

Dr. Tubeishat said the seminar will be part of a series of meetings to be held at later dates. Other meetings, he said will discuss joint municipal councils services legislation concerning local councils, improving the performance of municipal staff and vocational training centres run by the municipalities.

New centre to improve flow of information, promote research

By Masa Alal
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Decision-makers, researchers and concerned institutions in Jordan will soon have better access to research information as the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST) is preparing what officials describe as a more efficient, up-graded information system base.

A national information system has been operating in Jordan since 1987 but it turned out to be inefficient due to its two-bloc structure with two independent centres, said Dr. Youssef Nusseir, director of the Computer Training and Industrial Studies Centre of the Royal Scientific Society (RSS).

The separation of information centres at the Ministry of Planning and RSS made the system inflexible and inefficient, he said. Accordingly, he said, the board of the centre recommended to the Higher Council for Science and Technology the setting up of a separate institution which will coordinate the collection of information at the national level.

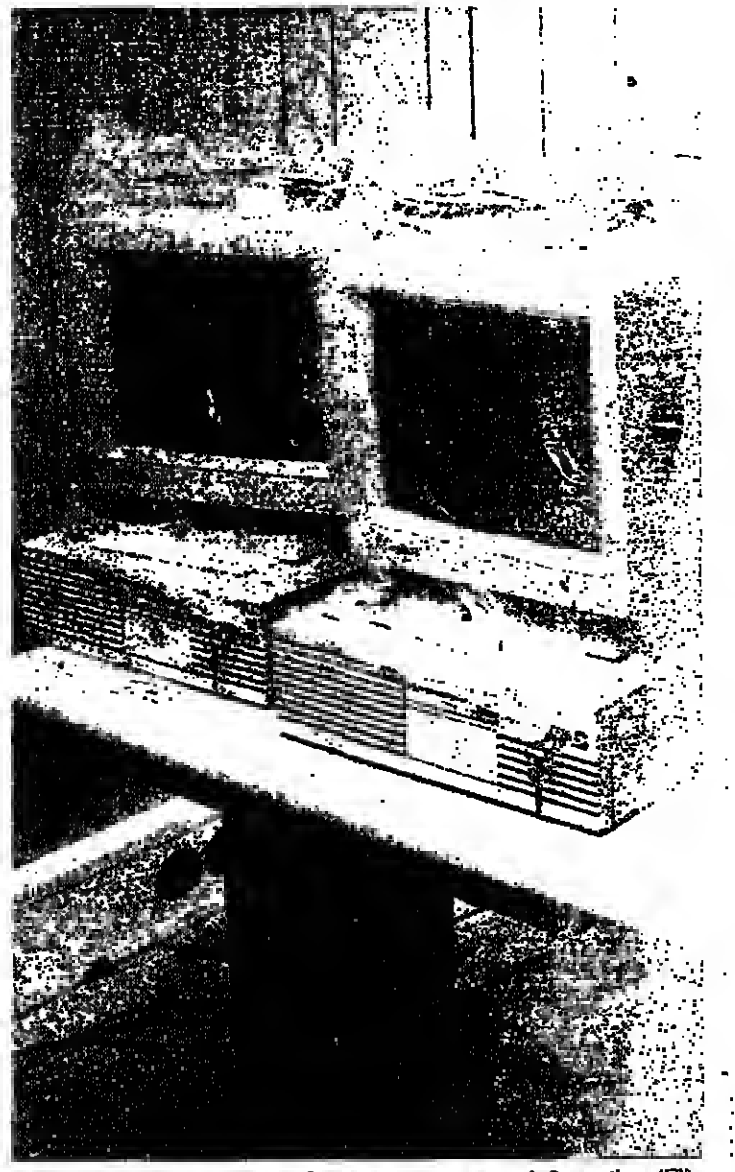
Dr. Nusseir said the new specialised National Information Centre, which is associated with the Higher Council for Science and Technology, will coordinate information with a view to building a national information system in Jordan.

The centre would "prepare, manage and coordinate economic, social, scientific and technical information," in support of development plans in the country, Dr. Nusseir said. He said the current system fails to offer users updated information on fast changing areas and other necessary statistics. The new centre, he said, would make the process of obtaining information easy because of its organisational structure.

"It is centralised in information coordination and decentralised in information generating, whereby every institution is required to feed in the updated information according to defined criterion," said Dr. Nusseir.

He said the new centre aims to establish a comprehensive information system and to link it with the local and foreign information banks to be utilised at the national level by the public and private sectors.

The centre, chaired by the Minister of Planning, would be administered by a committee



New centre promises researchers better access to information (Petra photo)

which would coordinate, regulate and modernise the acquisition of information.

"We aspire to establish an accessible system for obtaining information, which, at the same time, upholds the confidentiality of information," said Dr. Nusseir.

Dr. Nusseir said some challenges are obstructing the setting up of the centre such as the unwillingness of private organisations to cooperate.

"Private organisations are very weary of the system; we try to (encourage) the private sector to join us on the basis of mutual interests but very few are cooperating with us," Dr. Nusseir said. He attributed that to the lost

sense of information importance as a national resource. "Information is a national economic resource that has to be utilised because it is the only commodity which increases in quantity and importance when spent."

Dr. Nusseir points to the need for setting up required infrastructure and a national telecommunication data transmission network that can generate and sustain information which has to be continually updated and checked. That, he said, it is heavy investment.

Dr. Nusseir said that the initial phase of the project was financed by GTZ of Germany and the International Development and Research Centre of Canada.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Public holiday observed Wednesday

AMMAN (Petra) — All government institutions and departments will be closed Wednesday Jan. 20 in observance of Al Israa wal Mi-raj anniversary, according to an official communiqué issued by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Saturday.

House panels to hold meetings

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament's Agriculture Committee will meet Sunday under the chairmanship of Mohammad Al Alawneh to discuss the outcome of its recent meeting with farmers from the Jordan Valley. The Education Committee at the House is scheduled to meet Monday morning under the chairmanship of Deputy Abdul Hafeez Allawi. The committee will resume its discussion of the 1988 Temporary Education Law.

Jordan, Morocco to stimulate trade, tourism

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary General Marwan Awad discussed Saturday with the Moroccan ambassador to Jordan economic and trade relations between Jordan and Morocco. At a meeting held at the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the two also discussed issues listed on the agenda of the joint Jordanian-Moroccan follow-up committee due to meet in Amman Tuesday and entrusted with overcoming obstacles impeding trade exchanges. The Moroccan side to the talks is due in Amman Monday. The joint committee's talks will focus on means of implementing a trade and tourism agreement signed between Jordan and Morocco last year. Mr. Awad was quoted by Petra last week as saying that the committee will look into means of stimulating trade and tourism exchanges in implementations of last year's agreement, which was reached in Casablanca during a Jordanian delegation's visit to Morocco. Among the subjects agreed on with the Moroccan side was the exchange of visits by businessmen from the two countries, the creation of the joint committee and the removal of customs barriers to facilitate trade exchanges. Jordan and Morocco organised trade fairs in Amman and Casablanca last year, and 80 Jordanian firms sold at least JD 1.2 million worth of national products through the Jordanian fair. Jordan displayed engineering, chemical, construction, agricultural and industrial products along with home appliances, carpets and leather commodities.

Charity seminar calls for public participation

NORTH SHUNEH (Petra) — Zarqa Governor Tal'at Nawaiseh Saturday called on citizens to support the work of voluntary and charity societies in serving the local community and assisting others. At the opening ceremony of a seminar entitled "Interaction with the Local Environment and Participation in Social Activities" held at Al Salt Charity Society premises in Zarqa, Mr. Nawaiseh said true belonging "was the lost link we were looking for to serve the public interest." The aim of the seminar was to evaluate and assess the outcome of public participation in charitable societies.

University holds technology workshops

SALT (Petra) — Two specialised workshops on computerised designs and manufacturing and programmed logical controllers opened Saturday at the University of Jordan's Faculty of Engineering in cooperation with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) will include lectures and practical training in the latest technologies on developing Jordanian industries through the use of computers. The workshops will last for two weeks.

French shoot film in Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — A crew from the Third French Channel arrived in Amman Friday on a several-day visit to Jordan during which it will shoot a film on Jordanian industry and trade. The crew will conduct interviews with officials from the private and public sectors and will visit several touristic sites in the Kingdom. The film will be shown at a specialised contracting and industrial participation fair to be held in France in March. Jordan is participating for the first time in the three-day fair.

ESCWA reports worsening regional social conditions

AMMAN (J.T.) — The latest report by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) outlined the difficult social conditions in the Western Asia region as a direct result of the Gulf crisis and the subsequent Gulf War of 1991.

Countries of the region, including Jordan, have undergone significant changes with negative and far-reaching implications that are expected to last for a long time, the ESCWA report said. The report said these changes are expected to affect all segments of society, especially disadvantaged groups such as the youth, women, and elderly, the disabled and refugees.

More than 350,000 Jordanian and Palestinian expatriates returned to Jordan from the Gulf in

the wake of and after the crisis. According to ESCWA, the Gulf war has created new social problems in the country, particularly with regard to unnatural and unexpected population growth.

The report said the war disrupted long standing political and economic ties among ESCWA countries and the emerging socio-economic difficulties add to the deteriorating social conditions in some countries of the region. The report said the war also increased the burden of poverty, unemployment, juvenile delinquency and drug abuse.

It said that with the deterioration of social conditions in the ESCWA region, some countries have been obliged to exploit available facilities more intensely.

State Security Court to examine case against theft, murder suspects

AMMAN (J.T.) — The State Security Court will soon begin examining the case of a group of 10 suspects who were apprehended after allegedly carrying out numerous thefts, murders and other criminal acts in the past two years.

The group's actions, which were detailed in a police report printed Saturday in local Arabic dailies, included five murders, including police personnel; burglary, involving 132 homes in Amman, Zarqa, Irbid, Ajloun, Jerash and Fuhais; and the theft of jewellery, electrical appliances, wrist watches and other items of value.

The group, which includes four women, was said to have been aided by 21 accomplices who peddled the stolen items in various towns and districts. According to the press, the alleged accomplices will be brought before the court for trial.

The report, which gave no date for the start of the trials, said the suspects used to kill or threaten with murder anyone who might have stopped them or tried to report them to the police in the course of their actions.

To carry out the alleged robberies, the group bought two BMW cars and was paying handsomely any one who would join them, according to the report.

The report said most of the group members are related or have long records of criminal actions. Members of the group used to fire on the household members or owners of stores where the alleged thefts and burglaries were underway, the report stated. Some of the burglaries were conducted in daylight, the report said.

According to the report, the

police who were investigating the group, lately apprehended all of its members after a 10-kilometre car chase. The suspects fired on the police several times, and commandeered pick-up trucks and other vehicles before they were arrested, said the report.

Two of the alleged group members immediately admitted that they fired on the police and the others gradually confessed to committing the alleged crimes and robberies, the report said.

The police identified the leader of the group only as a 21-year-old unemployed male who used to recruit accomplices by offering them generous sums of money, up to JD 350 a day, and providing them with weapons.

The police also said some of the suspects admitted to selling stolen jewellery with the help of their women accomplices.

Amman-based accounting group to hold seminar

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Amman-based Arab Society of Certified Accountants (ASCA) board has approved a programme for the Third Arab International Accounting Conference, which will be held in Bahrain in April, 1993.

An ASCA statement Saturday said that the conference will be attended by several individuals including representatives of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) in New York and the International Accounting Standards Committee (IASC) in London.

A number of Arab and international businessmen will participate in the meeting, according to the statement, which followed the end of the 25th ASCA meeting held in Cairo recently.

The statement said that the conference will coincide with another seminar in Bahrain, dealing with the basis for setting accounting standards in the Arab World.

Kindergarten teachers discuss family values

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Education estimates that children under six years of age constitute 21.7 per cent of the country's total population of about four million. According to Ministry Secretary General Munther Al Masri, these 668,000 children are in need of care and educational, health and cultural services.

Dr. Masri was addressing the opening of a training seminar for 300 kindergarten teachers at the Teachers Club in Amman.

He said kindergarten education helps children to form healthy habits, develop social relations and enhance positive trends in their behavioural patterns.

Dr. Masri said the ministry of education continues to establish kindergartens and training and administrative supervision for them. He thanked the private sector in Jordan for its part in setting up kindergartens in the country.

Dr. Masri said the total number of kindergartens in the Kingdom is 598, caring for nearly 45,526 children in different governorates.

According to Dr. Masri's estimates, nearly 20 per cent of the

total number of children aged four to six years are enrolled at kindergartens in Jordan. He said kindergartens constitute nearly 15 per cent of the total number of educational institutions in the country. This, he said, has prompted the Ministry of Education to include plans for supervision and follow-up on the development of these schools.

The 1987 national educational conference resolutions also called for such plans, he added.

The director of training at the Ministry of Education, Dr. Mohammad Wahsh, outlined the various activities conducted through his office. He said in the six-day training seminar, participants will discuss educational methods for children; effects of family environment on the creation of children's personalities and skills; children's growth at various stages, mentally physically and psychologically.


Kindergarten supervisors employed by the Ministry of Education are also attending the meetings which were organised in cooperation with the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (ALECSO).

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITION

★ Exhibition entitled "Latin American Countries in France" at the French Cultural Centre.



NEW ENGLISH SCHOOL

P.O. BOX 154 KHALDA - AMMAN

TEL: 827151, 827152, 827153, 827154 - FAX: 816294

The New English School is a private, bi-lingual establishment, which trains its students to the highest academic standards and prepares them for entrance to universities throughout Jordan, the Arabian World, the U.K., the U.S.A. and Europe.

Owing to natural growth and consolidation at British public examination level, specialist, experienced graduates are sought to teach in the coming 1993-1994 academic year. Specific subject and teacher requirements are outlined below. Applicants for all these advertised posts should be prepared to teach intelligent, highly motivated students and should be thoroughly familiar with the British I.G.C.S.E. (University of Cambridge) and 'A' Level (University of London) examination programmes.

Candidates should also be able to demonstrate a sense of commitment to whole school policy, to the area of extra-curricular activity and should be fluent in English.

Those who are interested are invited to apply, in writing, before the 31st January deadline, to Mrs. Ophelia Bishouty, Director of the School, submitting full curriculum vitae and the names and telephone numbers of two referees who must not be family members. Application forms are available from the Director's secretary at the school.

The following subject specialists are required:

- (i) DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE
 - a) A graduate to teach Chemistry through to I.G.C.S.E. and 'A' level.
 - b) A graduate to teach Biology or a combination of both Biology and Chemistry through to I.G.C.S.E. and 'A' level standard
- (ii) DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL STUDIES
 - a) A graduate to teach History to 'A' level
 - b) A graduate to teach Economics to I.G.C.S.E. and 'A' level
- (iii) DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE
 - a) A graduate to teach English as a first language and possibly Literature to I.G.C.S.E.
 - b) A graduate to teach English as a second language to I.G.C.S.E. level (two posts available)
- (iv) DEPARTMENT OF PERFORMING ARTS
 - a) A graduate to teach Music and Drama to students in grades 7, 8 and 9.
- (v) DEPARTMENT OF MATHS
 - a) A graduate to teach Maths to I.G.C.S.E., A/S and/or 'A' level
- (vi) DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTING
 - a) A graduate to teach Computing to I.G.C.S.E. and 'A' level

ALL APPLICANTS FOR THE ABOVE POSTS MUST BE ABLE TO TEACH THEIR SUBJECT IN THE ENGLISH MEDIUM.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.
Established 1975

جريدة الأردن اليومية سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

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Ghastly weapons

THE CHEMICAL weapons treaty signed in Paris recently completes 24 years of talks and aims at eliminating a whole class of ghastly weapons of war. Even such formerly "obstinate" nations as China, Pakistan and Russia intend to impress their signatures on the agreement. Why then are the majority of the Arab League states not signing the accord even at the expense of looking churlish in the eyes of the rest of the world?

The fact is that the Arab League has supported the objective of eliminating these weapons, properly described in the 1989 Paris resolution as "abhorrent to civilised countries, even in the context of conflict." Most of the Arab states, however, have withheld their signatures for precisely the same reason that the Israelis signed the agreement. The convention, although "an advanced legal instrument" and "a good agreement" in itself, as one Jordanian official put it, remains flawed because it "starts from the middle" on chemical arsenals, thus ignoring more destructive weapons in the region. Consequently, the accord abets Tel Aviv's shell game of hiding its own continuing nuclear programme under a series of declarations against weapons of terror.

Indeed, the concept that failure to achieve a comprehensive solution to such horrific weapons is strategically counterproductive has been effectively admitted by the U.S. State Department with respect to last week's changes in the guidelines for the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR). The 22-member MTCR now denies the transfer of missiles, regardless of whether the payload or range capacities fit chemical or nuclear weapons, to countries they presume will use them with weapons of mass destruction. The U.S. thus accepts that all such weapons, whether nuclear, biological or chemical, are destabilising and hazardous to a region.

Unfortunately for the Arab World, the new MTCR guidelines now hinge upon a judgement of intentions (although presumably the previous 500-kg and 300-km restrictions will still apply). This may allow certain Western governments to contend that the Israelis do not intend to marry their Lance and Jericho missiles with weapons of mass destruction.

But to the contrary, many experts, including Paul Warnke, the former director of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, claim that the Israelis are already on record as having deployed nuclear weapons under battlefield conditions, specifically during the 1973 war. At that time the Israelis are believed to have had around 20 such weapons, according to American investigative journalist Seymour Hersh. Today the Israelis may have as many as 200 weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear-tipped missiles.

Thus the underlying assumption which permits Western governments to overlook the Israeli programme even as they clamp down on other states in the region — that the Israelis can be trusted to behave responsibly with such weapons — needs to be challenged more fundamentally.

The road taken since the 1925 Geneva protocol, which banned the use but not the possession of chemical weapons, may one day prove a helpful path from enmity towards greater amity in international affairs. But there are still some major obstacles to be removed before the Arab states relinquish yet another bargaining point. Regional security must be carefully and comprehensively constructed.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

FOLLOWING THE latest U.S.-led aggression on Iraq, the chief of staff of the French Armed Forces and the U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton have declared that more attacks would be launched on Iraq, said Al Rai daily Saturday. The paper said that these statements are very serious and indicate that the war on Iraq is far from over and that the air raid last Wednesday was only the beginning of a series of acts of aggression. It is clear that the Western alliance is determined to terrorise the Arabs and humiliate the Iraqi people at a time when the Iraqi territory is being used as arena for further acts of aggression, said the paper. It said that the time has come for the Arab capitals to launch contacts with Paris and the new U.S. administration to get clarification about these statements and to ask that aggression be halted. The Arab leaders ought to make it clear to the West that such aggression can by no means contribute towards the Middle East stability. Rivalry among the major powers, when it comes to threatening and terrorising the Arabs, is very serious indeed and could pave the ground for a total Western hegemony on the Arab Nation, said the paper. The Arab leaders ought to take the situation into consideration and take measures to fend off the danger before it is too late, added the paper.

A COLUMNIST in Sawt Al Shaab daily discussed the possibility of extending the present mandate of the Lower House of Parliament. Saad Abu Dayyeh said that postponing the general elections, due in November, would be a welcome development for many of the deputies who will save a lot of time, cash and effort on the election campaign. An extension of the present mandate means keeping the deputies in their seats, something which many deputies believe would be a favour from the government, said the writer. If that were so, the Lower House would not be so effective in controlling the executive branch's behaviour and activities; and this in turn, would lead to a situation in which Parliament and government would be appearing to be on the same side, he added. Should the elections be postponed, the people will have to keep watch over the government's behaviour and performance in various fields, in the absence of parliamentary monitoring, said the writer. He said that no doubt, with an extension, the deputies would feel they became more mature and more aware of the public interest. But, he said, it is up to the electorate to judge whether this is what would result from such an extension.

British press fights back against clampdown threat

By Allan Barker
Reuter

LONDON — The British press, one of the most vigorous and diverse in the world, is fighting with all the weapons it can muster to protect its freedoms from legislative curbs.

The battle, which promises to be long and hard, follows a year of no-holds barred reporting of the troubles of the royal family and the sexual peccadilloes of a government minister that eventually forced him out of the cabinet.

A report on the press by Lawyer Sir David Calcutt to the Conservative government will not be published until the end of the month. But its key recommendations have already been leaked and include a press complaints tribunal with statutory power to impose big fines on papers that breach a new code of conduct.

It calls for ways to protect privacy with new laws against telephone bugging and against entering private property to take photographs using telephoto lenses.

The leaks suggest the government recognises that traditional press freedom in a nation with a dozen national daily newspapers and a high readership is a hot potato and wants the issues fully aired before it makes its own proposals.

Britain has no press censorship and no Freedom of Information Act, but it has an Official Secrets Act, and tough defamation and contempt-of-court laws.

Critics say a system of self-regulation by the newspaper industry, in the form of the current Press Complaints Commission, has failed to check invasions of privacy, especially by tabloid newspapers fighting for readers in cut-throat circulation wars.

Prime Minister John Major, while not keen on statutory action, is reported likely to back new laws to protect privacy from electronic bugging and trespass by photographers.

This would stop such highlights of 1992 reporting as the notorious photographs of "Fergie" the

duchess of York, frolicking topless with her "financial adviser," or the transcript of a phone call apparently between Diana, the princess of Wales, and a close male friend.

Members of parliament and other parts of the British establishment have been incensed by the sensational reporting of royal stories. Diana and her husband Prince Charles, heir to the throne, have now agreed to separate.

But the argument for curbing press coverage of the royals has been undermined by revelations that some of the "intrusive" press stories about the marriage troubles of Diana and Charles were in fact planted by the royal couple.

The book "Diana, Her True Story," by Andrew Morton drew outraged criticism when it was serialised in the Sunday Times, but Diana is now believed to have cooperated with the author, at least through friends.

David Mellor, the former national heritage secretary, once warned the popular press that it was "drinking at the last chance saloon" and told it to watch its step over intrusions of privacy.

The tabloids caught the minister, whose portfolio included media standards, in an extramarital affair with a struggling actress and drove him from office.

Senior press executives are angry that the threat to press freedom comes from a Conservative government, which they helped keep in power in last year's election. Left-wing Labour governments had many complaints about press treatment in the 1970s but did no more than huff and puff about it.

"Many people who support John Major and his government will find it simply unbelievable that they could even contemplate the kind of measures which Calcutt recommends," commented the Evening Standard. "If it now tampers with the freedom of the press the break from the past will be decisive and devastating. Big brother will have been brought in by a Tory government."

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Al Fanek

Good reasons pushed imports off target

The large gap in Jordan's balance of trade was always one of the major structural weaknesses in the Jordanian economy, for which an economic adjustment programme was adopted. Therefore, the widening of the trade gap during 1992, resulting from a surge in imports, is supposed to be a cause of worry. This essential economic indicator obviously went sharply in the opposite direction.

According to the programme, imports should decrease by 6.3 per cent from \$2,571 million in 1991 to \$2,434 million in 1992. Instead, imports rose by 16.9 per cent, to \$3,005 million, an increase of 23.5 per cent above the target. Exports also grew in 1992 by 15 per cent, thus exceeding the target by a moderate rate of 6.3 per cent, to reach \$1,302 million. Thus net deficit in the balance of trade rose from \$1,439 million in 1991 to \$1,703 million in 1992, which is higher than the target by \$494 million.

This is the general picture as suggested by the crude facts and figures. While we do not like to see this happen, we believe that it is not alarming. Following are some reasons why we should not worry:

The first reason is that the trade deficit was the only indicator to go wrong. Most other economic indicators gave a positive reading and were far better than the targets set by the programme.

The second reason is that part of the increase in imports took place to accommodate the high growth of imports, especially of

raw materials and energy.

The third reason is that most, if not all, of the increase of the returns from Kuwait brought back with them, such as cars, the furniture and equipment. Such imports were brought to the country without having to pay for them in foreign exchange.

The fourth reason is that part of the imports represents what the Jordanians need to replace worn-out equipment, coupled with a rise in the standard of living, resulting from a high growth in the economy, to the order of 15 per cent in current prices, or 11.7 per cent in real terms. 1992 was the first year in a decade when the per capita income has increased in constant prices.

The most important reason why we should not worry about the jump in imports is that it did not come about at the expense of the reserves in foreign exchange. A major part was financed by expatriates' savings which were kept abroad. The fact that the country's reserves grew by \$200 million in 1992 is an evidence that the imports were not in excess of our means.

The substantial increase in imports during 1992 can be explained by the above-mentioned reasons, yet we should deal with this indicator with the utmost caution in 1993.

A doable peace

By Milton Viorst

AFTER SIX months of aimless meandering, followed by Israel's aborted deportation of 400 Islamic fundamentalists, the Arab-Israeli peace talks stand on the threshold of collapse — yet Arab-Israeli peace has never been closer.

It is astonishing, when one examines the positions of the adversaries, how little actually separates them.

Syria wants all of the Golan returned, and Israel concedes that it will have to give up some of it. Since the two have nearly identical views on security, their dispute is about the Syrian definition of peace and the remaining sliver of territory.

Israel contests no territory with Lebanon, though it occupies a strip along the border to keep out terrorists. Syria, the real power in Lebanon, has indicated that its own forces will suppress terrorism if Israel withdraws as part of a comprehensive accord. Israel replies that, given the proper assurances, it will.

Though a Bush-Baker creation, the talks are not a partisan issue. As U.S. foreign policy problems go, they are without the traps of Bosnia and Somalia while promising bigger gains. Washington must end the risk of another Arab-Israeli war or a war against a third party with Israel and the Arabs on opposite sides.

What better symbol of the continued American commitment to

peace than for Mr. Clinton to instruct Secretary of State-designate Warren Christopher to reconvene the parties, perhaps in Madrid itself?

Ultimately, the Palestinians want nationhood, and Israel is not yet prepared to concede it to them. These disputes are serious, to be sure, but can they be called irreconcilable if no real effort has been made to bridge them?

Both Arabs and Israelis have made clear that they do not want the talks to fail.

After a half-century of war, they understand that peace is better, and they want to make a deal. Each, of course, wants the best deal it can get but is prepared to settle for less than the best in place of nothing at all.

Until now, the parties have been playing domestic politics rather than looking for compromise. They have been enemies for too long to make concessions with grace; mutual suspicion runs too close to the bone. Only with American help will they climb down from their platforms to deal constructively with their disputes.

The time has got to be now. The present leaders — Yitzhak Rabin, King Hussein, Hafez Al-Assad and Yasser Arafat — are all committed to a settlement. But they are mortal, physically and politically, and there are enemies lurking outside their camps. Israel's blow-up with Hamas illustrates how fragile the negotiating table actually is.

George Bush and James Baker have won a place in history by carrying the parties over the barrier to face-to-face talks at Madrid. Though a year has passed, the time has not been wasted. Arabs and Israelis have become used to talking to each other, and that is no small achievement.

Now it is up to Bill Clinton and Warren Christopher to show their political skills by bringing the negotiations to a successful end. Failure will mean tragedy for the Middle East. Peace will be a triumph for the new administration and for America.

The writer covers the Middle East for the New Yorker. His article is reprinted from the Washington Post.

Rabin's strategy for the occupied territories

By Laura Drake

It is believed by many that the election of Labour's Yitzhak Rabin represents a major change in Israel's attitude towards the Palestine question and other aspects of the peace process, and that this will eventually result in Palestinian statehood. Others, however, hold that Labour and Likud, indeed the two Yitzhaks, are essentially two sides of the same coin, equally dedicated to erasing out what remains of the Palestinian national existence, each using their own unique tactics but both using U.S. taxpayers' money to accomplish it.

Fear of a bi-national state

The most revealing aspect of the Labour-Likud divide lies in their respective means to realise Israel's long-term strategic goals. Labour's main differences from Likud's approach stem from its belief that the latter's policy of deliberate physical integration of the occupied territories into Israel would eventually have led to the emergence of a de facto bi-national state. Likud's strategy of flooding the territories with Israeli settlers was intended to produce a powerful settler lobby strong enough to prevent any future Israeli government, should it be so inclined, from ever giving back any part of them. The facts thus created on the ground would have become irreversible.

The reason Labour fears the bi-national state is because it contradicts its conception of Israel as a "Jewish state," which must consist of a "Jewish majority" and possess a "Jewish character."

This problem leads Labour Zionists to equate such an eventuality with the destruction of Israel as they know it. Currently, the combined percentage of Arabs in the territories and in the pre-1967 areas of Israel is 37 per cent of the total. Because of the higher Arab birth rate, demographers predict that an Arab majority will exist in the combined areas Israel now controls within three or four decades, and that the flood of Russian immigrants to Israel, so desperately sought by Labour, will delay the inevitable perhaps only a decade longer. Therefore, however ironically, Labour's main criticism of Likud is that the continuation of the latter's policies would have gradually led to the end of Israel's existence. Labour dove Abba Eban was publicly warning Israeli citizens of this perceived threat as early as 1964.

The rationale is: had Likud's

integrationist policies been allowed to continue for another decade or so, Israel would, at that point, be confronted with several options: 1) The de jure annexation of the territories and the granting of Israeli citizenship to their Arab inhabitants, which amounts to the formal establishment of a bi-national state; 2) the de facto incorporation of the territories and the continued denial of voting rights and other democratic freedoms to their Arab inhabitants, leading to the development of a true apartheid system whereby Israeli "democracy" is replaced by a blatantly totalitarian system of minority rule as in South Africa; 3) a dubious and very risky attempt at the forcible expulsion of most or all of the Arabs in the territories to Jordan and/or Lebanon, possibly under the cover of another Israeli-initiated Arab-Israeli war. The expulsion could be partial, simply delaying the emergence of the Arab majority for another few years, or near-total, on the scale of the Palestinian displacement in 1947-48. In either case, the Palestinians themselves would not easily succumb to expulsion this time; they are much more organised now and have accumulated experience with Israeli tactics. Nor would the international community tolerate another such action today. Israel would risk becoming a pariah state, and could face a cut-off of the funds that sustain it.

In other words, of three concepts which Israel desires, it can have any two but not all three: 1) permanent control over the territories, 2) majoritarian "democracy" 3) a Jewish state. Labour does not wish Israel to ever be faced with such a dilemma and, hence, viewed Likud's creeping annexation as an existential time bomb, a road to certain disaster.

Neutralising the damage

This is why Labour appeals take on such a sense of urgency; now that they are in power, they see their mandate as containing and neutralising the damage which they perceive was done by Likud during the last decade and a half. They are not willing, however, to reverse it by force; Mr. Rabin has already ruled out the idea of uprooting existing settlements or compelling the settlers to withdraw to the pre-1967 boundaries. However, he has terminated some Likud-enacted incentives for more Israelis to move to those parts of the territories most densely populated by Palestinians and might even in-



troduce some reverse incentives — to induce the non-ideologically motivated settlers to move out.

In short, Mr. Rabin will try to discourage Israelis from taking up residence in what he calls "political" settlements, meaning those in close proximity to Arab population centres, while continuing with "security" settlements in Alon Plan areas and "along the lines of confrontation." These include the Golan Heights, as well as a strip of land in the eastern West Bank along its border with Jordan, the areas in and around the already enlarged East Jerusalem, extending all the way eastward to meet the strip along the Jordan River, and a few other "strategic" West Bank regions. Thereby, the northern West Bank would be completely cut off from its southern part at the territory's narrowest point — at Jerusalem and the land to its east — leaving West Bank Palestinians isolated, cantonised, surrounded, disconnected from one another, and hence, physically incapable of any kind of meaningful independent existence.

Going for a quick fix

Mr. Rabin's short-term goal is the unlikely conclusion of a quick peace agreement, the antithesis of Mr. Shamir's declared intention to drag the process out for a decade or more while continuing to incorporate the entire West Bank into Israel. Mr. Rabin's favoured solution is a "separate peace" with Syria (which is extremely unlikely) while, at the same time, pursuing a "solution" for the West Bank in which the majority of the territory's Palestinian population — but not the land itself — would be subject to "autonomy." It is almost inconceivable that Mr. Rabin would cede a swath of West Bank territory contiguous to Jordan to either Jordao or to a fully independent Palestinian authority (which he opposes in any case), because his fire-line of settlements and military outposts along the Jordan-West Bank border would stand in the way of any such contingency.

Labour's hope in the past had been to assign the inhabitants of the more densely populated portions of the West Bank to some form of Jordanian control at the local level, but the realisation of such a goal would now be dependent upon the alienation of the Palestinian peace delegation from their Jordanian counterparts, an unlikely event at this stage. Since the summer of 1988, when the Kingdom of Jordan formally renounced its quasi-sovereign interest in West Bank affairs, Labour's vision of Israel and Jordan collaborating with each other to prevent Palestinian national aspirations from ever being real-

ised — that centrepiece of the Alon Plan known as the "Jordanian option" — ceased to exist.

Even if Mr. Rabin does not try to revive the Jordanian option, his vision does not do much for the Palestinians; it aims at defusing the Palestine question by settling it short of statehood, allowing Israel to maintain its strategic dominance over the West Bank without being required to absorb its inhabitants into the ruling state structure.

Cantonised islands

Mr. Rabin's proposals assign to Israeli control the most crucial aspects of Palestinian life, namely, defence, foreign and economic policy, internal political security, and, most importantly, the natural resources (land and water) which are the Palestinians' lifeline. The Palestinians would be responsible for the policing and pacification of their own people (since the Jordanians have already eschewed any such role for themselves). And this role would be taking place in territory not contiguous with any Arab country, in two cantonised islands — the northern and southern West Bank — which would be completely surrounded by Israel, just as Lesotho is totally surrounded by South Africa. The result is that the densely populated Arab regions in the territories, including

Gaza, would acquire a separate status, providing Israel with the rationale it needs to avoid integrating their Palestinian residents into Israel as citizens with equal rights, while at the same time, preserving Israeli control over their land, water and other resources. In this way, Mr. Rabin's demographic problem would be solved.

To emphasise the point, Mr. Rabin stated earlier this year: "I have three principles: no to two million Palestinian citizens (of Israel); no to a Palestinian state; no to a withdrawal to '67 borders." (It must not be forgotten that it was Labour which initiated the war with the Arabs). In reference to Mr. Rabin's first "no", it is instructive to quote the New York Times coverage of the Shamir-Rabin debate just prior to the June 23 elections: "Challenged by Shamir on whether his willingness to compromise meant that he was also ready to accept a Palestinian state, the opposition leader (Rabin) sternly said no. But he added that he also wanted some form of self-rule for Palestinians to keep them from ever becoming citizens of Israel."

The term "self-rule," of course, is a misleading euphemism in that it applies to the Palestinian people but not to their land, granting them some "autonomy" in the conduct of their own "local" affairs. (In an area so small in size and so great in importance as the West Bank, use of the term "local" to describe Palestinian affairs is especially disingenuous; everything is "national", even the most seemingly mundane aspects of daily life). The term "self-determination," on the other hand, represents the Wilsonian concept of the right of every nation to determine its own future in its own country and, hence, has become the recognised label for Palestinian statehood and political independence.

Mr. Rabin clearly believes in "self-rule" as an end in itself, not as a stepping-stone on the way to self-determination. If Mr. Rabin chooses to handle the peace process the old way, assuming Palestinian passivity which no longer exists, and trying to raise worn-out Camp David formulae — such as "separate peace" and "autonomy" — then his attempt to rebuild good relations with the U.S. could still be frustrated at some time in the future when America decides to pressure the Israelis to negotiate in good faith for a real peace that is both just and lasting — Middle East International.

Iraq offers fresh compromise

(Continued from page 1)

The Iraqi government agreed Friday to allow U.N. weapons inspectors to fly into Baghdad, promising to end one issue that led to bombing of southern Iraq on Wednesday by U.S., British and French planes.

However, U.N. officials said the offer did not go far enough because the Iraqis refused to guarantee the safety of the U.N. flights. Iraq claims the skies are dangerous because of allied flights over northern and southern Iraq to enforce a ban on Iraqi aircraft flying there.

In Camp David, Maryland, Mr. Bush said he was consulting with his allies and the United Nations on the new Iraqi compromise offer on U.N. flights.

"We have no response now," Mr. Bush told reporters at his Camp David retreat. "We're interested in knowing what the United Nations' response is."

"His (Aziz) offer just was

announced and we'll just have to wait and see how it's regarded. We don't do these things unilaterally, we consult with the others," Mr. Bush said.

Mr. Bush spoke to reporters as he welcomed Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney for a weekend at the Camp David presidential retreat.

Officials at the White House, the Defence Department and the State Department — none willing to speak on the record — said the administration considered Iraq's response unsatisfactory.

One Defence Department official said: "We reserve the right to strike without notice. That hasn't changed any."

Meanwhile, Iraq continued its harassment of allied flights patrolling over the no-fly zones.

A senior Defence Department official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Iraq fired on three coalition aircraft patrolling the zones Friday.

The Iraqis aimed anti-aircraft artillery at two coalition aircraft in the south and one U.S. Air Force in the north, said the official.

The Iraqi fire fell "well short of range," the official said. Asked how close U.S. forces came to renewing an attack against Iraq, the official said, "you can say we took one short step back from the brink. We're still on the edge."

Mr. Aziz, wearing the olive-green uniform of the ruling Baath Party, accused the United States and its allies of constantly raising minor issues to misrepresent Iraq's record of compliance with Gulf war ceasefire resolutions.

"Secondary issues were put in the forefront of the situation deliberately by the Bush administration and its allies to confuse the situation and mix the cards," he said.

He listed Iraqi retrieval of weapons and other property in the territory now designated part of Kuwait and the issue of six Iraqi police posts on the Kuwaiti side of the demilitarized zone.

The main issue in the current confrontation is the no-fly zones. Iraq has rejected the no-fly zone that was imposed (in the south) unilaterally by the government of the United States, Britain and France," he said.

He said the same governments had acted aggressively against Iraq to impose that zone and one in the north — a reference to Wednesday's air strikes which killed 19 people.

"We have decided to resist the aggression and we are resisting it now by all means, political and military."

In answer to a question, he said Iraqi air defence missile batteries had orders to shoot at intruding planes at will.

Mr. Aziz said the issue of U.N. flights had also been used to distort the situation.

Iraq had told the U.N. it should temporarily halt its flights for safety reasons because of Western hostility. "A great fuss was created because of that simple explanation," he said.

In Bahrain, U.N. official Doug England said it seemed unlikely that flights to Iraq would resume Sunday.

Mr. England, reacting to Mr.



Iraqi children watch a civilian building in Basra, southern Iraq, hit in Wednesday's allied air raid (AFP photo)

Aziz's statement, told Reuters: "Based on the fact that the Iraqi response seemed to be conditional, it seems unlikely that everything will be resolved so we can fly tomorrow."

Mr. Aziz repeatedly separated U.N. sanctions from the dictates which he said were imposed on Iraq unilaterally by the United States, Britain and France.

From the beginning, he said, Iraq had notified the United Nations of its concern over flying over the "no-fly" zone.

A "deliberate attempt was made by the Bush administration" to make it appear that Iraq was violating U.N. resolutions and challenging the will of the international community, he said.

Mr. Aziz, who recently represented Iraq at the United Nations, cited U.N. officials as saying Iraq had met most of its obligations under the Gulf war ceasefire.

Given that, he said Iraq should be allowed to sell oil to pay for humanitarian aid. But he said that U.S. influence at the U.N. had undermined Iraq.

Iraq has rejected the newly redrawn border which the U.N. Security Council endorsed in November.

UNIKOM's Khabbaj said that the recent confrontations between observers and Iraqis removing four silkworm missiles from the zone prompted a request "two or three days ago" for armed peacekeeping troops.

The Security Council asked the secretary general to consider to send some troops to help UNIKOM if needed if there is any trouble around here," said Mr. Khabbaj.

He said American troops arriving in Kuwait Friday and Saturday would not enter the demilitarized zone.

About 750 troops have arrived so far, with the full contingent of 1,100 soldiers expected by the end of the day.

Their maneuvers with the Kuwaiti troops in the desert near the border is expected to deter any possible retaliation by Baghdad for last week's air raids.

Egypt called on Iraq to abide by the Gulf war ceasefire resolutions and avoid further tension in the region.

"Egypt regrets the latest escalation of the situation in the Gulf," Foreign Minister Amr Musa told reporters.

"Egypt is keen about the unity of Iraq and the safety of its people," he said.

He criticised what he termed "adventures committed by the Iraqi leadership which impose unnecessary dangers on the people."

"We call on the Iraqi leadership to abide by the Security Council resolutions and refrain from taking further measures that may bring more problems to the Iraqi people or may increase tension in the region," Mr. Musa added.

British Embassy Annual Notice To All British Nationals Living In Jordan

Have you registered with the British Embassy. If you are a British citizen and live in Jordan, please contact the British Embassy, Consular Section, in order to obtain a registration form.

If you have registered during 1992, please confirm your continuing presence in Jordan by re-registering as soon as possible. Please also notify the Consular Section about any changes of address and/or telephone number. Such confirmation is in the interests of all British nationals in Jordan.

If names are not re-registered within three months the Embassy will be obliged to consider that those concerned have left the country. The names will accordingly be deleted from the register.

If you are a citizen of a Commonwealth country which does not have an Embassy or Consulate in Jordan, please ask the British Embassy, Consular Section, about registration formalities.

The British Embassy is located in Abdoun, near the Orthodox Club. Telephone 823100. The Post Office Box Number is 87.

The Consular Section is open from Sunday until Thursday 0830 - 1200 hours.

Fateh leaders meet on reform

(Continued from page 1)

the rising fundamentalist Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, in the Israeli-occupied territories.

One source said the issue of Mr. Arafat's succession for the leadership of both Fateh and the PLO in case something happened to him is expected to be raised.

The debate on the succession and the sharing in the decision-making process has been pushed by those who complain of Mr. Arafat's tight control over the PLO and its funds.

Some critics accuse Mr. Arafat of using the money to buy influence among Palestinian factions. There was considerable doubt that Mr. Arafat's critics would be able to put together and adequate challenge or to force him to form a collective leadership that would erode his power or limit his authority.

Sources close to the meetings said one issue expected to raise a

heated debate among the members will be a visit made by the PLO Executive Committee member Mahmoud Abbas to Saudi Arabia last week.

During his visit, Mr. Abbas publicly apologised to the Saudis and other Gulf states for PLO support for Iraq during the Gulf crisis over Kuwait.

The apology by Mr. Abbas, also a veteran leader of Fateh, drew criticism from the movement's rank-and-file. Many members considered it humiliating.

The Arab-Israeli peace talks and the performance of the Palestinian team is expected to be high on the meeting's agenda, with calls anticipated from members for reassessing the Palestinian participation in the deadlocked negotiations.

The Palestinians said they cannot go to the next round of the negotiations until more than 400 Palestinians expelled by Israel are returned home.

Evictees: Aid could prolong exile

(Continued from page 1)

The statement did not elaborate on the clarifications Mr. Hariri sought, but it quoted him as telling Mr. Pfeiffer that an ICRC helicopter that would be used for the mission should not fly over territory controlled by Lebanese government troops.

It would fly only over Israel or Israel's self-designated "security zone" in South Lebanon.

Israel Friday approved the mission, allowing the Geneva-based humanitarian organisation to bring to the group medical supplies, letters, water distillation tablets and legal documents to aid attorneys appealing the expulsions.

Israel had previously refused to send aid to the men, but last week allowed a one-time visit to the camp by ICRC delegates.

On that trip, the ICRC evacuated two men, Bassem Siyuri, 16, the youngest of the evictees, was allowed back to his home in the occupied West Bank town of Hebron, and Zohair Lobbadeh,

suffering from kidney malfunction, was hospitalised in the "security zone" town of Marjayoun.

The new Israeli concession was apparently aimed at easing U.N. pressure on Israel and came after Foreign Minister Shimon Peres met with U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali.

Dr. Ghali had threatened to impose sanctions on Israel if it maintained its refusal to ease the pressure on the deportees.

Oded Ben-Ami, spokesman for Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, said Friday the ICRC relief delegation would also bring back nine of 15 Palestinians, who Israel says were expelled in error.

Israel has refused an ICRC request to evacuate seven sick evictees, saying these first have to be examined by Israeli doctors to determine if their lives were in jeopardy.

The Israeli supreme court on Sunday is to hear arguments on the legality of the expulsions, presented by some of the expelled men's families.

Relief for Bosnian Muslims blocked

(Continued from page 1)

protect Bosnian Muslims from Serb attacks.

Late last year, the OIC threatened to break the U.N. embargo on former Yugoslavia and allow member states to deliver weapons if the United Nations did not act by Friday.

However, Mr. Aksin did not threaten any immediate action.

"Assistance that has been provided to the Bosnians has been sidetracked by the Serbs, confiscated if you will, for their own use. We don't feel that Unprofor (U.N. Protection Force) is carrying out its mandate," Mr. Aksin said.

The Security Council must somehow pursue this matter with more energy and more vigor in order to persuade the Serbs to be flexible and to be amenable to negotiations," he said.

Bosnia's rebel Serb leader Radovan Karadzic said Saturday he expected a tough time persuading the "parliament" to his self-declared republic to endorse an international peace proposal next week.

"It is going to be a very hard time for me, a very hard time," he told Reuters at his mountain headquarters 15 kilometres from Bosnia's Serb-besieged capital Sarajevo.

"The radicals are rising up because I am too moderate, I make too many unilateral concessions about prisons, about peace talks, about ceasefire."

The remarks contrasted with optimism Mr. Karadzic voiced on Friday that his rebel state's assembly would embrace the proposal he accepted at a Geneva peace conference.

He agreed last Tuesday to

accept a constitutional framework for a post-war Bosnia drawn up by international mediators Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen at peace talks in Geneva.

The European Community has given the Serbs until next Tuesday to accept a peace package aimed at ending nine months of civil war in Bosnia, or face U.N. punitive action.

But his Vice-President Biljana Plavsic has already said the Bosnian Serb assembly meeting here next Tuesday will reject it.

Mr. Karadzic, who has vowed to resign if the constitutional outline is rejected, declined to name specific deputies or factions who might block it.

The Sarajevo was relatively peaceful Saturday after what U.N. officials said was relatively heavy overnight fighting in the western suburbs of Stup, Ilidza, Butmir and elsewhere.

Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic and French Health Minister Bernard Kouchner were scheduled to fly to the capital Saturday from Zagreb.

Elsewhere, six days of Muslim-Croat fighting in and around Gornji Vakuf, 65 kilometres west of Sarajevo eased Saturday after the signing of a local ceasefire, said Croatian officials.

With the Geneva peace talks next week scheduled to discuss the division of Bosnia-Herzegovina into provinces, fighting between Muslim and Croat units, nominal allies against the Serbs, seemed at least partly to be over territory.

Although provincial boundaries will not be drawn solely along ethnic lines, all three nationalities — Serbs, Croats and Muslims — continue laying claim to certain regions.

ARABIC FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES

The Language Centre at the University of Jordan announces that the intensive course in modern standard Arabic for speakers of other languages will commence on January 30, 1993, and will last for 16 weeks.

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Those interested, please call at the Language Centre for registration. (Registration begins on Saturday 23.1.1993)

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Economist urges new investment strategy in southern Africa

HARARE (R)—A leading Zimbabwean economist has urged southern Africa to pursue policies that attract foreign investment, saying socialism in parts of the region had frightened many investors away in the 1980s.

Professor Tony Hawkins of the University of Zimbabwe said there was need for "new strategies... aimed at integrating the region with the world economy, thereby reversing the 1980s process of marginalisation."

United Nations figures show that in the 1980s, southern Africa's share of global investment was less than 0.2 per cent.

Wars in Angola, Mozambique and Namibia, the socialist policies of Zimbabwe and Zambia

and apartheid in South Africa, made the region unattractive to investors, he said.

"Zimbabwe's post-independence experience (with socialism in the first 10 years off black majority rule up to 1990) is a case study of how to manage economic growth," Mr. Hawkins said at a regional economic conference.

Automobiles Peugeot plans to cut nearly 2,600 jobs in '93

PARIS (AP)—Anticipating a decline in European car sales in 1993, Automobiles Peugeot SA will cut 2,597 jobs at four of its factories this year, the French automaker has said.

The job cuts will help Peugeot deal with an expected 4.5 per cent decrease in European car sales in 1993 and to pursue its annual objective of a 12 per cent gain in productivity, a Peugeot spokesman said.

Automobiles Peugeot is one of the auto manufacturing divisions of PSA Peugeot Citroen.

The French auto market is expected to be flat or to show a slight decline in 1993, but Peugeot executives say the German market could shrink by as much as 10 per cent compared with 1991.

The plan to trim Peugeot's workforce of 55,000 will be presented to a meeting of management and labor representatives Wednesday.

The plan calls for 1,636 workers to take early retirement and for a further 961 to be laid off.

Registration of cars made by Automobiles Peugeot and its sister car division, Automobiles Citroen, nevertheless surged by 26 per cent in France in December, said the spokesman.

Registrations rose to 67,141 compared with the same month a year earlier.

The sharp increase chiefly reflects government incentives that allowed car buyers to save 2,000 francs (\$377) if they bought a car with an environmentally friendly catalytic converter.

The Peugeot group's share of the French market increased slightly to 30.3 per cent in December from 30 per cent a year before. December's sales performance reverses a string of negative results by the group in previous months.

U.S. faces host of economic troubles as Clinton takes over

WASHINGTON (R)—President-elect Bill Clinton has promised to focus like a laser on the economy but his team will have to take in all the difficulties the United States faces.

Some of the problems, such as lagging U.S. investment in new factories and equipment, have been around for years.

Others are of more recent vintage, and most notably include a hesitant economic expansion that has failed to generate much in the way of new jobs.

It's not going to be easy, but Mr. Clinton realizes he doesn't have much choice.

Although he's riding high in the opinion polls right now, that support could ebb away quite quickly if he doesn't deliver the goods on the economy—a fact that President George Bush found to his cost last year.

Among the welter of economic problems that Mr. Clinton will face after he takes office on Jan. 20 are:

— Slow jobs growth
Although the economy has been expanding for six straight quarters, it has not risen fast enough to generate many new jobs. Only a little over half a

million jobs have been created in this year. That compares with some 3-1/2 million at this point in past recoveries.

Mr. Clinton is weighing a short-term economic stimulus plan to try to jolt the economy onto a higher growth path. But to have any impact, it would have to increase the budget deficit—the number two economic problem facing the president-elect.

— Budget deficit
Mr. Clinton promised during the election campaign to cut the \$300 billion deficit in half in four years. But recently he's shied away from that pledge as new deficit forecasts have made that task even more daunting.

To come even close to achieving that goal, Mr. Clinton will probably have to drop another of his campaign promises—a \$60 billion, four-year tax cut for the middle class. He may even need to raise some taxes that will hurt the middle class—such as that on petrol.

But to really come to grips with the deficit problem, Mr. Clinton will have to rein in the escalating costs of U.S. government health care programmes.

— Health care reform

Government, business and private spending on health care has more than doubled in the past 25 years and is gobbling up valuable resources that could be put to better use elsewhere. The system now lacks any effective cost control and doesn't even cover 36 million people.

Mr. Clinton plans to tackle the problem by setting an overall health care budget for the country and by instituting cost controls on doctor and hospital charges.

That should free up money for other uses and help make America more competitive.

— Competitiveness
The United States is being out-invested by its trade competitors overseas and that bodes ill for its ability to compete in the future. Too much money is being spent for instant gratification and consumption and not enough is being squirreled away for the future.

Mr. Clinton has promised to spend \$20 billion of federal money annually over the next four years rebuilding America's roads, highways and bridges and investing in the technologies of the future. He's also pledged

more money for worker training and promised an investment tax credit for business—ambitious goals given the size of the deficit.

— Trade
U.S. exports have been one of the few bright spots in America's economic outlook over the past two years. Mr. Clinton has said he is in favour of free trade but wants it to be fair and he will have to flesh out exactly what he means with specific decisions soon after he takes office.

Mr. Clinton has backed the North American Free Trade Agreement with Mexico and Canada but has said he wants to negotiate side pacts with Mexico to protect worker rights and the environment. He also must decide whether to push the global trade reform talks going on in Geneva for almost seven years.

"America has a lot of problems today, which are beyond the reach of the president alone," Mr. Clinton said this week, summing up the difficulties he faces.

"If we're going to be a high growth, high opportunity country... we must invest more. We must educate better. Some of that has to be done at every workplace in America."

Financial Markets

Jordan Times in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date 14/1/93	New York Close Date 15/1/93
Sterling Pound	1.5375	1.5312
Deutsche Mark	1.6243	1.6355
Swiss Franc	1.4850	1.4970
French Franc	5.5030	5.5290
Japanese Yen	125.85	126.05
European Currency Unit	1.2109**	1.2010

USD Per STD
European Opening at 10:00 A.M. GMT

European Interest Rates Date: 16/1/93

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	2.93	3.00	3.25	3.56
Sterling Pound	7.00	6.93	6.63	6.56
Deutsche Mark	8.50	8.31	7.88	7.38
Swiss Franc	5.50	5.50	5.43	5.18
French Franc	11.75	11.37	10.43	9.25
Japanese Yen	3.81	3.65	3.53	3.43
European Currency Unit	10.06	10.06	9.68	8.93

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding 1 M. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals Date: 16/1/93

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	327.95	6.45	Silver	3.67	.080

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 16/1/93

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.689	0.691
Sterling Pound	1.0541	1.0594
Deutsche Mark	0.4210	0.4231
Swiss Franc	0.4598	0.4621
French Franc	0.1245	0.1251
Japanese Yen	0.5465	0.5492
Dutch Guilder	0.3744	0.3752
Swedish Krona	0.0947	0.0952
Italian Lira	0.0458	0.0460
Belgian Franc	0.02045	0.02055

Other Currencies Date: 16/1/93

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7970	1.8180
Lebanese Lira	0.0350	0.0395
Saudi Riyal	0.1633	0.1845
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2350	2.2900
Qatari Riyal	0.1866	0.1880
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7560	1.7750
UAE Dirham	0.1866	0.1880
Greek Drachma	0.3115	0.3200
Cypriot Pound	1.4100	1.4350

CAS Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	6/1/93 Close	13/1/93 Close
All-Share	179.52	180.49
Banking Sector	129.24	130.73
Insurance Sector	196.70	197.32
Industry Sector	246.22	247.46
Services Sector	252.91	246.29

December 31, 1990 = 100

U.S. to cut some loans to Jamaica, Argentina

WASHINGTON (AP)—The United States has agreed to reduce the debt owed by Argentina and Jamaica under foreign assistance leading programmes, the Treasury Department announced Friday.

The agreement was part of the programme called "enterprise," designed to help economic and structural changes in central and south America. The announcement also said the United States expects to enter into an Americas framework agreement with both governments, which would provide that interest on the remaining debt be paid in local currency. The Treasury said Argentina's foreign assistance debt was reduced by 10 per cent from approximately \$38.1 million to \$34.3 million. If a framework agreement is reached, about \$3.1 million in local currency would be generated over 15 years for environmental and child development projects. The announcement said Jamaica's foreign assistance debt was reduced by 70 per cent from \$134.4 million to about \$40.3 million. Assuming the framework pact is reached, about \$12.3 million in local currency would be generated over 20 years for environmental and child development projects.

The sharp increase chiefly reflects government incentives that allowed car buyers to save 2,000 francs (\$377) if they bought a car with an environmentally friendly catalytic converter.

The Peugeot group's share of the French market increased slightly to 30.3 per cent in December from 30 per cent a year before. December's sales performance reverses a string of negative results by the group in previous months.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

DOING BANK CENTER AMMAN - JORDANIAN TELEPHONE 660170 / 663170 ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 16/01/1993

COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE
ARAB BANK	143,245	130.000	130.000
JORDANIAN NATIONAL BANK	211,554	2.660	2.710
BANK OF JORDAN	1,041	22.500	22.400
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	58,236	3.840	3.970
THE JORDANIAN BANK	127,207	16.830	16.900
JORDANIAN TRADING BANK	1,487	2.300	2.390
ARAB JORDANIAN INVESTMENT BANK	4,000	4.000	4.000
JORDANIAN ZILZILAH BANK	107,733	3.820	3.830
JORDANIAN COMMERCIAL BANK	24,989	3.320	3.330
JORDANIAN BANK FOR SAVINGS & INVESTMENT	59,983	5.180	5.190
JORDANIAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	34,830	3.620	3.630
WEST JORDAN DEVELOPMENT BANK FOR HOUSING	90,849	1.970	1.980
ARAB BANK FOR INVESTMENT	29,212	8.900	8.910
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	3,650	3.600	3.610
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	42,271	3.840	3.850
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	37,707	2.870	2.880
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	563	7.180	7.190
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	16,539	3.300	3.310
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	151,088	1.630	1.640
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	16,484	1.000	1.010
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	6,124	8.982	8.990
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	242,338	4.590	4.600
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	307,478	1.800	1.810
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	26,316	0.920	0.930
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	15,220	1.280	1.290
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	480	4.800	4.810
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	320,410	1.460	1.470
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	25,212	8.900	8.910
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	46,227	1.770	1.780
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	9,260	4.500	4.510
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	768	24.300	24.310
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	71,388	9.340	9.350
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	30,330	3.300	3.310
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	5,716	2.970	2.980
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	100,250	6.820	6.830
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	190,874	10.500	10.510
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	222,466	6.820	6.830
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	1,905	6.450	6.460
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	5,105	2.840	2.850
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	84,830	3.620	3.630
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	36,992	4.830	4.840
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	25,212	8.900	8.910
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	76,420	3.320	3.330
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	37,650	2.640	2.650
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	37,650	2.640	2.650
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	246,807	13.240	13.250
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	180,539	2.270	2.280
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	394,374	12.300	12.310
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	2,339	1.100	1.110
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	111,722	0.080	0.080
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	31,886	0.700	0.710
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	70,283	5.880	5.890
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	17,990	1.000	1.010
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	31,886	0.700	0.710
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	332,143	3.230	3.240
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	46,648	14.240	14.250
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	1,081,233	1.320	1.330
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	29,241	1.320	1.330
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	31,886	0.700	0.710
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	1,081,233	1.320	1.330
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	12,835	9.840	9.850
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	196,998	4.830	4.840
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	186,416	2.030	2.040
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	170,314	5.790	5.800
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	170,314	5.790	5.800

NO. OF TRADING SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET : 122940
TRADING VOLUME IN THE PARALLEL MARKET : 144889

Soap ration cutback squeezes Havana consumers

HAVANA (R)—Havana's hard-pressed residents, already making do with reduced supplies of sugar and eggs this month, are now being asked to accept a temporary sharp cutback in their soap ration.

A spokesman for Havana's Provisional Directorate of Retail Trade said Friday that existing supplies of "Jabon de Lavar"—an unscented bar of soap used for washing clothes—would be distributed in the capital only for children of up to two years of age.

Previously the ration had been one bar each month per person, independent of age. Infants were now being given sole priority because their clothes and nappies needed frequent washing.

The spokesman also said that there were no supplies of scented bathing soap—"Jabon de Bano"—available this month.

Many Havana residents greeted the latest cutback with disbelief. "What am I going to wash clothes with?" one housewife asked. Detergent, also rationed, is equally in short supply.

The spokesman said shortages in imported chemicals and raw materials for manufacturing soap were behind the latest ration cutback. "As soon as the raw materials arrive, it will be restored," he said.

The measure was expected to further boost soap prices on the flourishing black market, on which Cubans increasingly rely. A black market bar of soap is now worth at least one sixth of the average monthly wage.

Reforms help Vietnam boost rice output, exports

HANOI (R)—Vietnam produced 21.5 million tonnes of rice last year, nearly 1.6 million more than in 1991, and exported more than 1.4 million tonnes despite floods that destroyed many crops, an official newspaper has said.

The Sunday Vietnam News said farmers had increased production by planting new high-yield rice, using more modern planting techniques and tapping more than one trillion dong (\$100 million) in loans from the government.

Those included 600 billion dong (\$60 million) in loans for farmers in Vietnam's southern Mekong delta, which produced nearly 11 million tonnes of rice in 1992.

Vietnam, which exported 1.1 million tonnes of rice in 1991, used to be a rice importer.

But government reforms in the mid-1980s that broke up old agricultural cooperatives and freed farmers to grow and sell their own produce turned Vietnam into the world's third biggest rice exporter by 1989.

Vietnam produced a total of 24 million tonnes of grain in 1992, including rice, an increase of two million tonnes over the previous year, the newspaper said.

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Hindu fundamentalists unveil drive against Rao government

NEW DELHI (Agency) — India's right-wing Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has announced a nationwide campaign to paralyse the government over its demand to hold early parliamentary elections.

BJP President Murli Manohar told a news conference that the campaign would begin with a rally "of more than a million people" in New Delhi on Feb. 25. The BJP wants the government to lift a ban imposed last month on three Hindu militant groups, including the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (World Hindu Council), after it led a mob of zealots to raze a mosque in Ayodhya on Dec. 6.

In Bombay, where at least 50 people have been killed in 10 days of Hindu-Muslim riots, Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao said Friday that India was in danger of breaking apart if communal hatred was allowed to fester and spread.

"If this country forsakes secularism it will break. I am absolutely convinced of that," Mr. Rao told a news conference after touring areas of Bombay where hundreds of shops, homes and cars were set ablaze.

The 71-year-old prime minister said India had been disgraced in the eyes of the world by the rioting that erupted after the destruction of the 16th-century Bahri Mosque.

Mr. Joshi said the BJP's demands include early elections in the four state assemblies in northern India where the Hindu party's governments were dismissed following the mosque's destruction.

Equally important, he said, is permission "to build a temple to Lord Rama," the Hindu warrior god, "at the site where the mosque stood."

The government has said it is setting up a trust to build a mosque and a Hindu temple in Ayodhya. The BJP says it does not need the government's involvement in the proposed temple.

Mr. Joshi said the BJP would call for "direct action" against the government if its demands were not met before the rally.

"Direct action" was a term used by the Muslim League for a campaign before India was granted independence by Britain in 1947. Hordes of right-wing Muslims attacked the mainstream nationalist Congress Party's workers and government offices at that time, and hundreds of people were killed in the Hindu-Muslim riots that followed.

Mr. Joshi said the BJP would not allow Mr. Rao's government to sit easy until all its demands were fulfilled.

He told Reuters later that the BJP would obstruct parliament when it met for its budget session next month. "If the government

wants to pass the budget, it has to keep our demands in mind first," he said.

Mr. Joshi said Mr. Rao's Congress Party government in Maharashtra, of which Bombay is the state capital, should be dismissed for the orgy of violence there. He said the Congress government in Gujarat state, neighbouring Maharashtra, should also be dismissed for mishandling riots.

"The Congress Party has totally failed to control the violence, and the home minister has been quoted as saying that foreign hands were involved," Mr. Joshi said. "If that is the case, we want to know who was involved and why the government allowed this to happen and by what logic should it stay in power?"

The worst violence in Bombay's 300-year history at last seemed to be a reaction to the destruction of the Ayodhya mosque.

But the methodical persecution of Muslims the last two weeks points to the deepening power of Hindu fundamentalism, and the unscrupulous work of land sharks and political operators taking advantage of a maelstrom.

"The attacks on Muslims seem to have been meticulously planned," said Anand Pathwardhan, a Hindu film maker who examined Hindu fundamentalism in an award-winning documentary.

WHO said about 13 million people had become infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), which leads to AIDS. It said there had been about one million new HIV infections in the past six months.

The U.N. health agency said that by the end of December, 611,589 cases of full-blown AIDS had occurred since records started in 1981, about 10,000 higher than in its last report in June.

It said the United States reported 242,146 cases, more than one-third of the world's total. The report, submitted to WHO in December, contains figures through September.

The centres for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. agency that monitors the disease, predicted Thursday that the number of AIDS cases in the United States would rise to more than half a million by 1995, with 385,000 deaths.

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CONGREGATION: Muslims arrive in trucks at Bangladesh's small industrial town of Longi for the Bawa Itama (World Muslim Congress), the second largest Muslim gathering after the Haj.

Organisers say two million Muslims from across the world are expected to join the three-day event which began Saturday (AFP photo)

2 killed in Japan quake

TOKYO (R) — Houses collapsed, highways caved in and city gas was leaking after the most powerful earthquake in 11 years shook northern Japan. Police said Saturday that two people were killed and more than 360 injured.

Early Saturday, a 78-year-old woman died from gas poisoning from a mains leak in Kushiro, the Pacific port on eastern Hokkaido island hardest hit by the quake, which measured 7.5 on the open-ended Richter scale.

When the quake hit Friday, a 65-year-old Kushiro man died in his living room when a chandelier fell on him as he tried to shield his invalid wife.

Of those hurt, at least 20 were treated in hospital for serious injuries, mostly from toppled furniture in homes and falling glass shards on the streets, police said.

Police warned that damage reports were conflicting.

The focal point of the earthquake, which struck at 8:06 p.m. (11:06 GMT) Friday, was 120 kilometres underneath the Pacific just offshore from Kushiro, the Central Meteorological Agency said.

The area is a hotbed of seismic activity. The last big quake in Japan to rate more than seven on Richter hit Utsunomiya, a coastal town west of Kushiro, in March 1982.

Friday's jolt was felt as far away as Yokohama, south of Tokyo, or about 1,000 kilometres south of the epicentre.

A 70-metre section of a highway linking Kushiro with the eastern tip of Hokkaido caved in to a depth of about seven metres, tossing aside four cars.

The motorists had a lucky escape, with only one person reported injured, police said.

Several roads linking Kushiro with other parts of Hokkaido were severed because of landslides and collapsed bridges.

Railways were also cut in many places in eastern Hokkaido. The tremor destroyed 12 homes in a Kushiro suburb, injuring several residents. A landslide engulfed one empty house and swept it over a cliff.

Gas mains were fractured in several places in Kushiro, and 9,000 homes were without gas Saturday. Power lines dangled from poles in many streets, and about 1,000 homes were without electricity. Temperatures in Hokkaido in January can fall well below freezing.

Kushiro, home to one of Japan's biggest deep-sea fishing fleets, has a population of about 270,000. In the harbour, 900 tonnes of asphalt pitch spilled into the water from a ruptured dockside tank, city officials said.

"A huge roaring sound came with the violent jolt," one Kushiro resident told NHK Television. "It was lucky we weren't sleeping."

Katsuyuki Abe of the Tokyo University Seismology Research Institute said the effects of the quake were not as bad as the Richter reading might suggest because the focal point was so far below ground.

Pavarotti wants to lose weight

PHILADELPHIA (R) — Italy's great tenor Luciano Pavarotti has cancelled some six weeks of public performances beginning at the end of January while he tries to lose weight. "He's going to undergo a doctor-supervised weight regimen. That is unfortunately something he needs to do and it cannot wait any longer," said Harvey Rosenstein, his agent. Mr. Rosenstein, who said he did not know the round tenor's current weight, said Mr. Pavarotti would go to Europe for his treatment. The singer, who is 1987 was reported to weigh more than 116 kilograms last October that he was trying to lose more than 45 kilograms.

Unique wage — zero

NICOSIA (R) — The Cypriot parliament has authorised a novel 1993 salary for the country's minister of commerce and industry — nothing. Opposition leader Glafcos Clerides' proposal to axe Takis Nimitas' entire salary from the 1993 budget was approved late Thursday, following allegations Mr. Nimitas was involved in a number of financial scandals. Mr. Nimitas told a radio station Friday Mr. Clerides' thinking had been muddled by "old age and drink." He later apologised for the attack on Mr. Clerides, a leading presidential candidate in elections next month, but opposition leaders demanded the minister quit or be sacked.

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Russia, Ukraine move towards ending feuds

MOSCOW (Agency) — Russia and Ukraine have taken big strides towards defusing damaging disputes over nuclear weapons and Russian oil deliveries.

But the two giant Slav nations, whose presidents met in Moscow Friday, have yet to settle a row over what to do about the foreign debt of the former Soviet Union.

The outcome of a summit later this month of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), of which both are key members, remains clouded in uncertainty.

In a move to encourage Kiev to ratify the START-I treaty reducing U.S. and former Soviet strategic nuclear arsenals, Russia's Boris Yeltsin pledged security guarantees to Ukraine including protection from nuclear attack.

"Russia gives a guarantee to preserve and safeguard the integrity of Ukraine and its borders and defend it from nuclear attack," Mr. Yeltsin told a Kremlin news conference held jointly with Ukraine's Leonid Kravchuk after several hours of talks.

Mr. Yeltsin's comments appeared to foreshadow a formal defence pact under which Russia would extend its anti-missile defences to cover Ukraine. But the details of such an arrangement were not immediately clear.

In turn, President Kravchuk said he would join the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and reiterated a promise to sign START I.

Mr. Kravchuk and Mr. Yeltsin signed a joint communique pledging to "continue efforts to reduce and eliminate nuclear weapons."

The men also agreed on oil exports to Ukraine and said they had moved closer to agreement on rescheduling shares of the foreign debt.

The smiling leaders, who have met several times since the Soviet collapse a year ago, praised Friday's meeting.

Psychologists say Mr. Esposito, described by his own lawyer as "obviously disturbed," believed he was actually helping shield Ms. Beers from a troubled family life.

His lawyers contend that Ms. Beers seemed happier with him than with her own family, apparently setting up a defence that while Mr. Esposito was seriously misguided, he was trying to help the girl.

Mr. Esposito was being held on \$500,000 bail on a charge of kidnapping and one attorney said he expected his client would also face child abuse charges.

Another attorney said that Mr. Esposito faced a single charge of kidnapping in the second degree and that neither the district attorney's office nor the police had made any official comment regarding other charges.

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Court orders White House to pressure Bush records

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal appeals court said Friday the Bush White House could erase electronic mail and other records on its computers and those of the National Security Council, but only if backup copies are made first.

On an emergency motion by the White House, a three-judge panel of the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia partly overturned a lower court judge's order. It had prohibited Mr. Bush from destroying material that might be stored on the hard disks of personal computers in the White House.

"Defendants may remove, delete, or alter such information as they see fit, so